# NCSC Enhances Cybersecurity Support for UK Political Figures Ahead of General Elections



The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), an arm of GCHQ, has announced enhanced cybersecurity support for political candidates and polling officials leading up to this year's general election. This initiative aims to thwart potential cyber threats, including spear-phishing and malware, amid heightened concerns about foreign interference in the UK's democratic processes.

The service, termed "personal internet protection," is designed to alert users when they attempt to visit known risky domains and block outbound traffic to such sites. Jonathon Ellison, NCSC Director for National Resilience and Future Technology, highlighted the significance of this support, noting that individuals in democratic roles are prime targets for cyber actors intending to disrupt societal stability.

The announcement follows accusations from the UK and the US that China orchestrated a global cyber espionage campaign, implicating Beijing in cyber-attacks on Britain's Electoral Commission in 2021 and other reconnaissance actions targeting MPs. Additionally, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has cited an "axis of authoritarian states," including China and Russia, as threats to national interests.

The personal internet protection service complements NCSC's existing protective DNS service and an “account registration service” that alerts individuals to malicious activities on their accounts. The NCSC encourages high-risk individuals to opt-in to these services to safeguard their online presence.