



# **SALISBURY INCIDENT**

**Moscow**  
**22 March 2018**



- **4 March:** Three people exposed to a nerve agent in Salisbury
- **8 March:** UK Delegation to the OPCW informed the Technical Secretariat that two people had been taken seriously ill
- **12 March:** Prime Minister publicly identified the substance used as a Novichok nerve agent. Russian Ambassador asked to explain
- **13 March:** Midnight deadline expired. No explanation received
- **14 March:** Prime Minister set out the UK's response
- **14 March:** Prime Minister wrote to the OPCW
- **18 March:** Russia announced retaliatory action
- **19 March:** OPCW team arrived in the UK
- **20 March:** 23 undeclared Russian intelligence officers expelled from the UK





- Military-grade Novichok nerve agent positively identified by experts at the UK's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down, an OPCW-accredited and designated laboratory
- Novichok is a group of agents developed only by Russia and not declared under the CWC
- A violation of the fundamental prohibition on the use of chemical weapons (Art. 1 CWC)
- First offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War
- We are without doubt that Russia is responsible. No country bar Russia has combined capability, intent and motive. There is no plausible alternative explanation
- As of Sunday 18 March, we count over thirty parallel lines of Russian disinformation



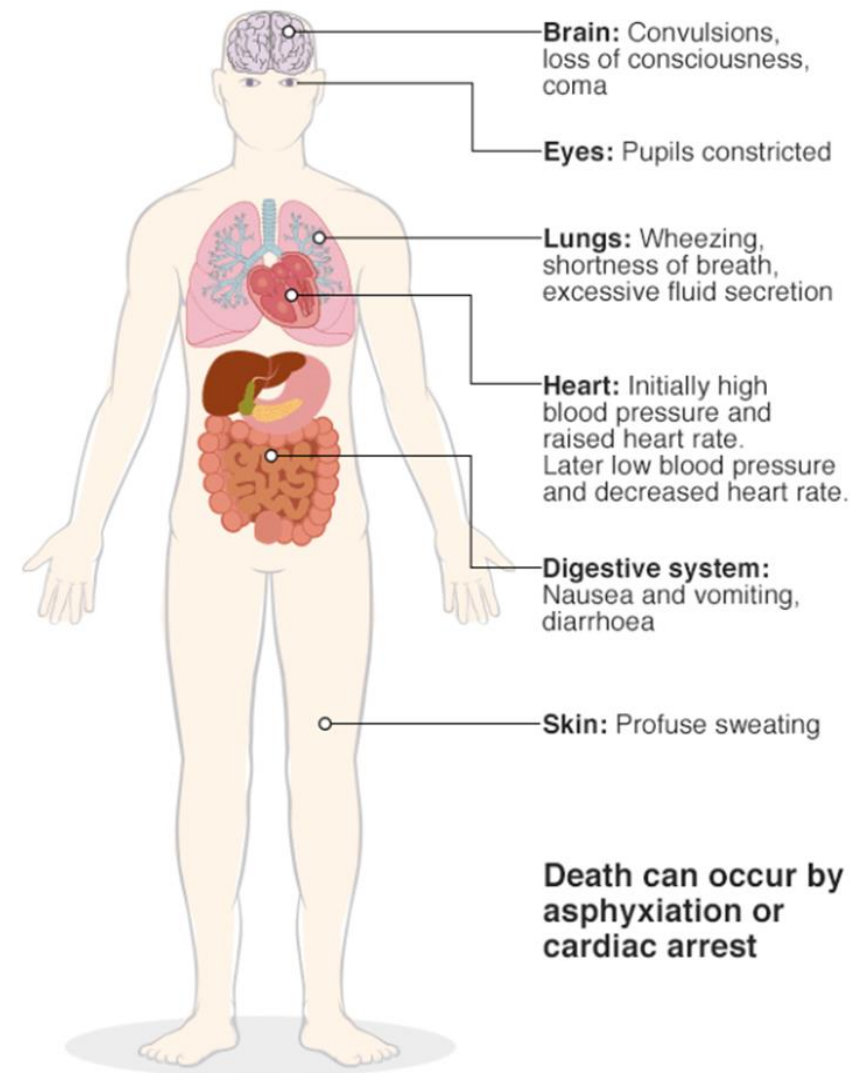
*“Based on this capability, combined with their record of conducting state sponsored assassinations – including against former intelligence officers whom they regard as legitimate targets - the UK Government concluded it was highly likely that Russia was responsible for this reckless and despicable act.”*

Prime Minister Theresa May, 14 March



- Novichok interferes with the normal functioning of the nervous system. If untreated, it will cause death by asphyxiation or cardiac arrest
- Sergei Skripal, his daughter Yulia Skripal, and UK policeman Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey remain in hospital
- 51 people have been assessed in hospital
- 131 civilians have potentially been in contact with the nerve agent
- 250 specialist counter-terrorism officers involved in the investigation
- 180 military personnel were deployed

### What nerve agents do to the body







- Attribution to the Russian State
- Dismantling of the network of Russian intelligence operatives in the UK
- Suspension of all planned bilateral contacts
- Enhanced Border Controls
- Tackling Criminality and Corruption
- New Legislation
- Other measures to Counter Hostile State Activity

