

How we protected the UK and space in March 2026

24.4.2026 - | Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs

This report was issued in April 2026 and covers the time period 1 March 2026 to 31 March 2026 inclusive.

March saw generally sustained levels of space activity, with similar levels of uncontrolled re-entries, collision alerts and space weather activity to February.

All NSpOC warning and protection services were functioning throughout the period.

Re-entry analysis

There was approximately a 10% increase in the number of objects re-entering Earth's atmosphere, monitored by NSpOC, when compared with the previous month.

Of the 72 objects that re-entered, 55 were satellites, 12 were rocket bodies and five were likely pieces of debris.

April: 92, May: 64, June: 55, July: 52, August: 34, September: 39, October: 54, November: 43, December: 52, January: 50, February: 66, March: 72

Collision avoidance analysis

Collision risks to UK-licensed satellites were slightly lower in March than in February and fell slightly below the 12-month rolling average.

April: 2,620, May: 1,546, June: 1,259, July: 1,038, August: 971, September: 1,537, October: 2,402, November: 2,472, December: 2,643, January: 2,608, February: 2,117, March: 1,847

Registered Space Objects (RSOs) analysis

The in-orbit population increased in March, with a net addition of 241 objects to the US Satellite Catalogue.

April: 30,289, May: 30,538, June: 30,863, July: 31,071, August: 31,325, September: 31,613, October: 31,906, November: 32,289, December: 32,678, January: 32,906, February: 33,144, March: 33,385

The number of Resident Space Objects (RSOs) reported may be subject to small adjustments over time as the way objects are tracked is refined. Figures in this report reflect the most current available data and may differ slightly from those published in previous months.

Fragmentation analysis

One fragmentation incident took place in March involving a satellite in Low Earth Orbit. Assessments are ongoing to understand how many pieces of debris were released into orbit.

Space weather analysis

A reduction in space weather activity was observed during the month of March, with some geomagnetic storms and solar flares registered throughout the month

Comments

The National Space Operations Centre combines and coordinates UK civil and military space domain awareness capabilities to enable operations, promote prosperity and protect UK interests in space and on Earth from space-related threats, risks and hazards.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-we-protected-the-uk-and-space-in-march-2026>