

SKRIPAL, NOVICHOK, SALISBURY: Observations

By Anthony Shell 29th August 2026

[This work is dedicated to the memory of Dawn STURGESS. RIP]

The impetus for this research is the Channel 4 documentary 'Inside Britain's Salisbury Poisonings: The Untold Story of The Novichok Poisonings' (3rd August 2026, length of documentary: 02:19:17 hours). For the purposes of this article, that documentary will be reference in abbreviated form: C4-03082026.¹

[1] The Salisbury Surveillance, 4th March 2018

A CCTV sequence from the C4-03082026 documentary shows a person of interest (poi-1) standing on the steps of Salisbury Library (Castle St.) at 14:18:43 hours on the 4th March 2018. This position is between the Zizzi Restaurant and The Walk passageway to The Maltings (where Sergei and Yulia were to later collapse on a park bench).

The CCTV sequence shows Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL walking toward the Zizzi Restaurant. At approximately 14:20 hours. The poi-1 is still there and appears to have turned his (her?) back to them as they pass by. Neither Sergei nor Yulia give any appearance of being unwell - indeed they walk briskly toward the restaurant.

Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL are seen walking back from the Zizzi Restaurant at approximately 15:40 hours - having spent some 1:20 hours in the restaurant. It is seen that poi-1 is still there, and appears to be looking at Sergei and Yulia as they walk by. From the CCTV there now appears to be something wrong with Sergei - he is holding onto his daughter's arm and seems unsteady on his feet.

A supplementary to this analysis of the C4-03082026 content (re. of the subject poi-1), is an assessment from of my earlier research, carried out in 2022 (and based on CCTV released by the MET CT police, in late 2018), as follows:

At 13:45 hours, that same day (4th March), Alexander PETROV and Ruslan BOSHIROV are seen to have walked past a second person of interest (poi-2) who was standing on the edge of Bridge Street, next to some yellow scaffolding at the front of The King's Head Inn. Notably poi-2 had initially turned his back to them. After PETROV and BOSHIROV had walked a little distance past poi-2, BOSHIROV turned around to look at poi-2, whilst PETROV prepared to take a tourist picture in a direction down the Avon River, toward Salisbury Cathedral. BOSHIROV and PETROV both appeared not in the least bit alarmed, whatsoever - indeed, they seem somewhat bemused by this, and continued on their way. This was about 5 minutes before Sergei and Yulia had arrived at the Bishop's Mill pub, in the Maltings.

¹ 'Inside Britain's Salisbury Poisonings: The Untold Story of The Novichok Poisonings', Channel 4, 3rd August 2026 [Youtube.com]

Notably poi-2 then appeared to have signaled with his right hand to someone nearby (not visible in the CCTV video). Immediately afterward poi-2 walked toward a footpath that led to the rear of the 'New Look' department store and to Crane Street - whilst still watching BOSHIROV and PETROV. PETROV and BOSHIROV continued on their way. [Notably poi-2 also appears on CCTV footage in the C\$-03082026 documentary indicating that poi-2 had been standing in that position for some time (at least tens of minutes)].

As BOSHIROV and PETROV paused to window-shop at DAUWALDERS (just past The Avon Bridge, Fisherton Street) at 13:48 hours, the shop's CCTV recorded BOSHIROV again turning around to look down the street, toward where poi-2 had had been standing.

[2] The Strange Case of DS Nick BAILEY

In regard to the extensive coverage of the actions of DS Nick BAILEY within the C4-03082026 documentary, important observations are to be made. Notably it presents the story such as to steer viewers into believing that Nick BAILEY never attended the crime scene at The Maltings, and therefore he never came into contact with Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL. Instead, it presents DS Nick BAILEY as becoming exposed to Novichok only when he went to the SKRIPAL's house later that night

So, there is a major problem. Initial reports had clearly stated that DS Nick BAILEY had been one of the 'first responders' at the park bench in The Maltings - including that he had given CPR to both Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL. Those reports apparently came from very reliable sources - including a close family member of Nick BAILEY, and also the (then) Chief Constable of Wiltshire Police, Kier PRITCHARD.^{2 3 4 5 6} Some 3 months later the MET Counter Terrorism police would also identify Nick BAILEY as "among the first to respond to the incident" (at the Maltings, park bench location).⁷ However, 3 years later, DS Nick BAILEY would tell a very different story - that, although he did indeed attend the scene of the poisoning (at The Maltings), both Sergei and Yulia had already been taken to

² "A close relative of Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey, 38, who fell ill after rushing to the scene, said that as well as tending to the victims on the bench where they were found, he was also among the first to enter Mr Skripal's home a few miles away after the attack. She said he was at both places. First, he was where they collapsed, trying to help them, then he went to the house, in that order." Source: 'Sleepy cul-de-sac house that became Britain's biggest crime scene: Russian spy's four-bedroom semi scoured by police as they probe whether they were poisoned there by nerve agent sent through the POST', by Claire Duffin and Inderdeep Bains and Chris Greenwood, The Daily Mail, 9th March 2018

³ "Sergeant Bailey administered CPR at the scene of the attack and soon became seriously unwell.", 'Russian spy latest: Hero police officer seriously injured by nerve agent named', by Joey Millar, The Express, express.co.uk, 9th March 2018

⁴ "Chief Constable Pritchard said yesterday: 'I'm proud of all staff who attended this incident at the Maltings on that night. They responded to try to protect people who were ill, with limited information ... We can confirm that a Wiltshire police officer, who was part of the initial response, is also in a serious condition and receiving intensive care.'". The Express, express.co.uk

⁵ "The first [police] officer on the scene, Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey, aged 38, of Salisbury CID, remains in a serious condition". Source: '21 people treated after Salisbury nerve agent attack', The Salisbury Journal, 8th March 2018

⁶ "A police officer in a serious condition after last week's nerve agent attack has released a statement through Wiltshire Police. Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey remains in Salisbury District Hospital after coming into contact with a nerve agent while attending the scene where Sergei and Yulia Skripal were found on Sunday". Source: 'DS Nick Bailey releases statement from hospital', by Rebecca Hudson, The Salisbury Journal, 10th March 2018

⁷ 'Salisbury Investigation Update', Counter Terrorism Policing, 5th June 2018, source: www.counterterrorism.police.uk

hospital.⁸ ⁹ There is no consistency. [Incredibly, the C4-03082026 documentary (episode 2, at 14:00 minutes) includes a BBC report at the scene of the Salisbury incident, a few days afterward, where a reporter states that Nick BAILEY had “had contact with the SKRIPALS”.] Notably, on the 4th March 2018 DS Nick BAILEY was on duty at Bromsgrove Police HQ – a mere 0.5Km (a 5-minute walk) from where the incident had happened.

Of the possible 16 people who were at (or very close to) the bench upon which Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL sat, in a collapsed state, it appears that at least 6 came into physical contact with the SKRIPALS. None of those (apart from, Nick BAILEY, presumably) became unwell. In that regard, none of the children to whom Sergei SKRIPAL gave bread to, to feed the ducks became unwell. It was only DS Nick BAILEY who became ill – and to a life-threatening extent.

A key part of the (much later) State narrative – and as reflected in the C4-03082026 documentary – is that Nick BAILEY was the first person to enter the house of Sergei SKRIPAL, and that it was therefore his touching the highly contaminated front door handle that led to his collapse and hospitalization the next day.

Indeed, DS Nick BAILEY has been very precise in regard to those events: “And by this time ... much later into the night ... we’d been joined by the on-call Senior Investigating Officer who’d come down and decided we had to go into the house ... And this was much later into the night. This was almost kind of midnight time by the time we went into the house. But we knew we had to go in, we had to check the house to make sure there were no other casualties and start to try and get an idea of what was going on. So yeah, so we kitted up in forensic suits and made our way to the address and that’s the ... [Andy Coulson: And you’re the first one in?] ... I’m the first in, yeah.”¹⁰ This part (at least) is consistent with CH-03082026.

Therefore, according to that account, the police supposedly delayed entry into Mr. SKRIPAL’s house for almost 8 hours, despite their concerns that there might be other casualties inside. Local residents of Christie Miller Road, reported that on that day (4th March 2018): “Police arrived at Skripal’s house in Christie Miller Road, Salisbury, yesterday at 5pm, according to neighbours.”¹¹ ¹² Was this, then, when DC Nick BAILEY (plus other officers) first arrived at Sergei SKRIPAL’s house. So, did DC Nick BAILEY try the front door handle to check the house was secure (as would reasonably be assumed)? Which begs the question – did he also enter the house, at that time? And were Nick BAILEY’s hands already contaminated with Novichok when he arrived at the house? The C4-03082026 documentary therefore never

⁸ “... so yeah, went down to the scene, the two patients who we now know to be Sergei and Yulia Skripal had already gone.” Source: Nick Bailey, as interviewed by Andy Coulson, crisiswhatcrisis.com, 25th June 2021, series 4, episode 25

⁹ ‘Actions of DS Nick Bailey on the 4th March 2018 (Salisbury Incident)’, Peter Beswick, FOI request to The Metropolitan Police (MPS, London), 16th December 2018 [The FOI request refused by the MPS]

¹⁰ ‘Nick Bailey on Being poisoned, losing everything and finding peace’, Crisis What Crisis? 25th June 2021, series 4, episode 25, 00:18:09:16 to 00:19:22.20

¹¹ ‘Man found critically ill at Maltings in Salisbury man is former Russian Spy Sergei Skripal’, The Salisbury Journal, 5th March 2018.

¹² Note that at that time (5pm) it will still have been daylight – with the sun setting at approximately 6pm.

mentions the initial reports of the sequence of events that would have given an alternative possibility to the Novichok contamination pathway - i.e. as DS Nick BAILEY being the vector from The Maltings (the Novichok-contaminated Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL, on the park bench) to the outside of Sergei SKRIPAL's house.

[3] The C4-03082026 Omissions, Irrelevancies, and Lies

[3.1] There is the lie (by omission) that only Russia could have been the source of the Novichok - that "*Novichok was only under the Russian State*" (C4-03082026, episode 2, Mark URBAN, 28:00 minutes) - despite the contradiction 6 minutes later that DSTL Porton Down was involved in "*the making and handling of Novichok*" (C4-03082026, episode 2, Prof. Tim ATKINS, Chief Scientist, 34:00 minutes). Indeed, this ignores the fact that Western European countries have been involved in the manufacture of, and the experimenting with, hugely lethal amounts of Novichok for many decades (for example at: The VVU, Czech Defence University, VYŠKOV; + the VTUVM Military Institute for Weapons and Ammunition Technology, VRBĚTICE; + the VTU Military Technical Institute, VRBĚTICE.¹³

[3.2] There is no effort within the C4-03082026 documentary to present a comprehensive, coherent, or accurate time-line for the activities of Alexander PETROV and Ruslan BOSHIROV during their visit to Salisbury, on the 4th March 2018. Furthermore, the severe cropping of the CCTV content, that removes any date/time-stamp information, makes this an almost impossible task for any independent researcher. That cropping and editing also removed important contextual information. This has clearly been done as part of an effort to promote a particular, and particularly required, narrative.

[3.3] Within the C4-03082026 documentary here is an absence of any proper behavioural analysis (or results thereof) of the activities of PETROV and BOHIROV on the 4th March 2018. The demeanour exhibited by PETROV and BOSHIROV was seemingly that of: 'nothing bad has happened, or is about to happen, that could lead to us being detained'; that they were unconcerned that they were being recorded by street/premises CCTV; and that it didn't matter to them that they could be identifiably noticed/remembered by members of the public. Indeed, their behaviour during the 2 hours they wandered around the streets of Salisbury - especially when seemingly realizing they were under surveillance - was indicative of a smug 'we have done nothing wrong, you cannot touch us' attitude.

[3.4] Such behavioural analysis can also be effectively applied to those seen to be present at such 'incidents' (such as at Salisbury, during the poisonings) - with this to the identification of persons likely connected to an 'incident', such as (as in this particular case) of the 2 particular individuals poi-1, and poi-2.

[3.5] Despite the frequent appearance of the BBC reporter Mark URBAN within the C4-03082026 documentary, there is no mention of his 2018 reporting of Sergei SKRIPAL

¹³ 'Hugely lethal' in the sense that just 1 gram of Novichok could kill many hundreds of people.

openly expressing support for a 'reincorporation' of Ukraine into the Russian Federation, and of his backing of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea - ironically a position much more likely to have made him an enemy of Western governments (including, especially Ukraine and the Ukrainian SBU) than to Russia and the Russian GRU.¹⁴ Nor is there mention of contemporary newspaper reports of Sergei SKRIPAL wishing to return to Russia.^{15 16}

[4] Conclusions

The C4-03082026 'documentary' is very obviously intended to be a vehicle to control UK public sentiment toward Russia - and to drive it in a very negative direction. The audience is seen as highly gullible and easily manipulated.

Notwithstanding, the content of C-03082026 is seen as having been very useful - it gives important insight into the character and psychology of the operative nature of the UK State's political thinking. And it also - quite inadvertently - reveals the hubris producing, or assisting in the production of, such material. In that regard, C4-03082026 is seen to be a very valuable resource. It reveals both the true intentions of the UK political State, and its particular and preferred *modus operandi*.

It is for the above reasons (especially the extreme hubris) that important factual information of an 'incident' (such as those behind the Salisbury poisonings) may inadvertently 'leak through' - such as is shown within the content of these research findings. Therefore, in terms of the particular findings, it appears very evident that: (1) other 'agencies' were present during this Salisbury 'incident', and that both Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL, and Alexander PETROV and Ruslan BOSHROV were being watched; and (2) that information regarding the source of the Novichok, and of the source and transmission path of contamination, was being very carefully curated.

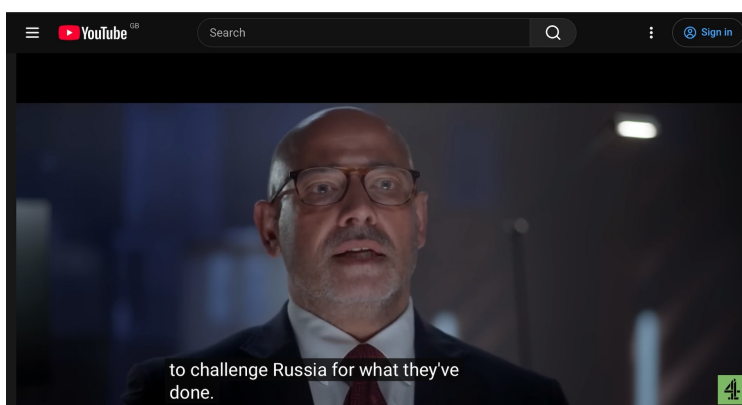
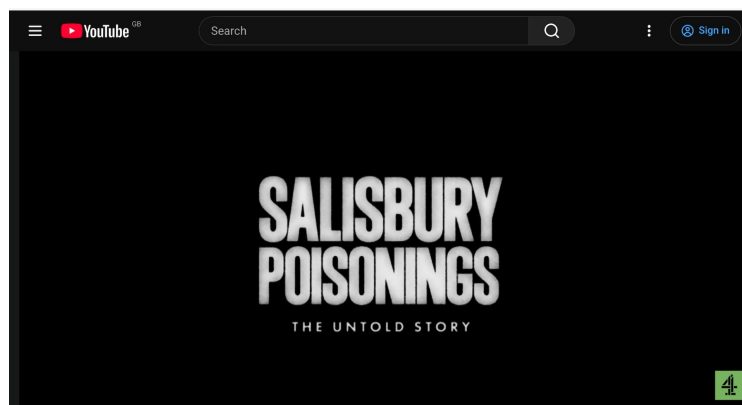
Research into these matters is ongoing.

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¹⁴ 'The Skripal Files - Putin, Poison and The New Spy War', by Mark Urban, Pan Books, 2019, page 208

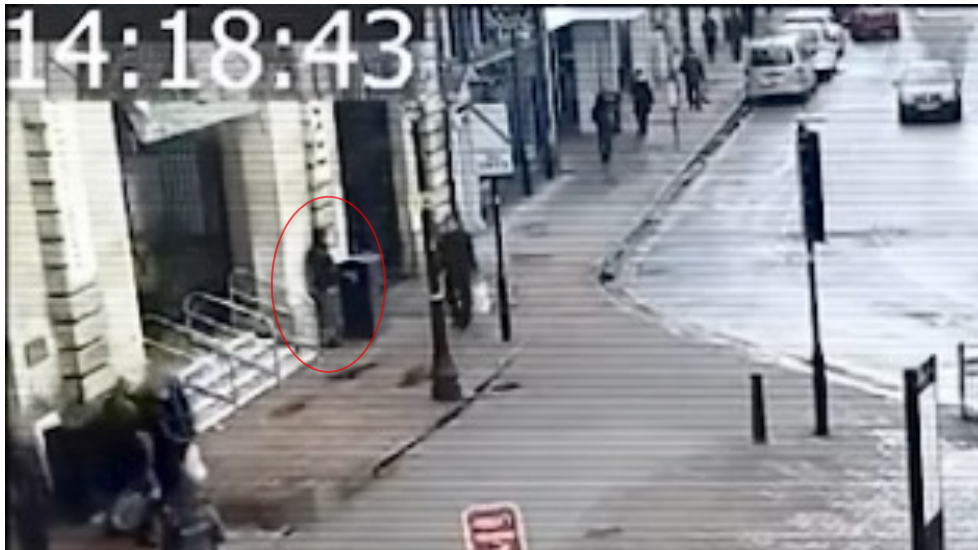
¹⁵ 'Russian Spy: Skripal asked Putin if he could return home', BBC News, 24th March 2018

¹⁶ 'Sergei Skripal's friend says the former spy wrote to Vladimir Putin to ask for a pardon saying he regretted being a double agent and wanted to visit his family in Russia', Bridie Pearson-Jones, The Mail Online, 24th March 2018

Channel 4 Propaganda Documentary, 3rd August 2026

Neil BASU - the UK Counter-terrorism investigatory lead during the Salisbury incident, at that time - plays a very leading role in the Channel 4 documentary.

The Zizzi Restaurant Surveillance



The scene is toward Salisbury Library entrance, Castle st., at 14:18:43 hours, 4th March 2018. (CCTV enlargement). The person of interest (poi-1) is circled in red.



Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL walk to the nearby Zizzi Restaurant, at approximately 14:20 hours, 4th March 2018. The poi-1 turns his/her back to the SKRIPALS as they pass.



Sergei and Yulia SKRIPAL walk back from the Zizzi Restaurant, at approximately 15:40 hours, 4th March 2018 - having spent some 1:20 hours in the restaurant. The poi-1 looks across and watches the SKRIPALS as they are about to enter Market Walk.

The Bridge Street / Fisherton Street Surveillance



At 13:45 Ruslan BOSHIROV turns to stare at poi-2 whilst Alexander PETROV prepares to take a tourist picture in a direction down the Avon River, toward Salisbury Cathedral.



Here, poi-2 slowly walks toward the footpath that leads to the rear of the 'New Look' department store and to Crane Street - whilst watching BOSHIROV and PETROV.



At 13:48, whilst window-shopping at 'Dauwalders' in Fisherton St., at 13:48 hours, BOSHIROV again looks back toward where poi-2 had been standing.

END