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Security firm's fake bomb triggered Old Trafford evacuation

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A blunder by a private security company that left a fake bomb at Manchester United's football ground led to the first abandonment of a Premier League game over terrorism fears.

The "incredibly realistic" device was blown up amid fears of an attack, only

for police and military officials to discover that it was a dummy left by mistake in a toilet cubicle at Old Trafford.

The error, which led to more than 50,000 fans being evacuated minutes before United's final league match of the season was due to kick off, has left the club facing serious questions about its security.

The incident was described by secur-

ity experts as a "shambles" that unnecessarily stoked fear and panic among fans and the wider public, amid heightened concerns about Islamic State and New IRA terrorism. It was doubly disastrous because those involved in the exercise had clearly failed to find the fake bomb.

The 75,000-capacity stadium was evacuated when the device, believed to

be a mobile phone attached to a pipe, was found in the toilet by a member of the football club's staff. To avoid panic, the crowd at the match against AFC Bournemouth was not told straight away that a device had been discovered.

Last night Greater Manchester police said in a statement: "A training device was accidentally left by a private company." Will Geddes, a security

expert, said it was routine for contractors paid by the club to run tests in which they used "extremely realistic explosive devices".

"It is a horrible mistake, although horrendous mistakes do happen. Ultimately, the club head of security is inevitably going to have fingers pointed about what went wrong," said Mr **Continued on page 5, col 1**

Millions of pounds put into Google by Church

Investment despite web giant's tax record

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The Church of England is investing millions of pounds in Google despite its promise to confront companies that are accused of tax avoidance.

The church also paid one of its executive commissioners £463,000 last year, almost six times the Archbishop of Canterbury's stipend and about 20 times the minimum pay for a parish priest.

The figures are revealed in an annual report published today by the church commissioners, who manage assets worth £7 billion.

Alphabet Inc, Google's parent company, is listed in the report among the church's "20 most valuable equity holdings", although the size of its investment is not specified.

In 2011 the church's investment in Google was listed as £15.7 million. The internet and technology company has since been accused of tax avoidance after figures showed that it paid only £52 million in tax on a UK turnover of £17 billion between 2005 and 2013.

The church has not raised the issue of tax avoidance with Google despite its ethics policy urging "investor engagement" with any company that appears to be avoiding tax. Assurances have also been given in the Commons that the church aims not to invest in companies that avoid tax.

In February John Pugh, the Liberal Democrat MP, asked Caroline Spelman, the Conservative MP and one of three named church estates commissioners, if

they "actively seek to shun investment in companies guilty of what the chancellor calls 'aggressive tax avoidance'".

Ms Spelman replied: "Yes. Indeed, it is just a year since the Archbishop of Canterbury said that a good economy is based on 'the principle that you pay the tax where you earn the money'".

The church's ethical investment advisory group published guidelines in 2013 stating: "Tax ethics should be a subject for investor engagement where it appears that a company's approach is blatantly aggressive or abusive."

A spokesman for the church commissioners confirmed yesterday that the commissioners had not engaged with Google over its tax affairs.

Mr Pugh said: "It strikes me as particularly embarrassing because of the strong assurances given to me in the Commons that the Church of England is drilling down hard on tax avoidance and any investments it may have in companies that seek to avoid tax. On the face of it, this seems inconsistent with that policy. They clearly aren't that vigilant and they have to review it."

The report also showed that Tom Joy, the church commissioners' director of investments, received a £5,000 pay rise to £255,000. He landed a further £208,000, up £48,000 from 2014, through an incentive plan linked to the performance of the commissioners' fund, which had a return of 8.2 per cent last year.

The Most Rev Justin Welby told a US magazine in 2012 that executive pay was "outrageous and even obscene" and said executives should not receive "vast **Continued on page 2, col 5**



Happy and glorious The Queen is greeted by the Prince of Wales as she arrives for the final night of her 90th birthday celebrations at Windsor. Report, page 7

Field marshal attacks Boris for comparing EU to Hitler

Michael Savage
Chief Political Correspondent

A former head of the armed forces has led an attack on Boris Johnson for claiming that the European Union was pursuing a similar goal to Hitler.

Mr Johnson's suggestion that both had been attempting to unify Europe — using "different methods" — was met by scorn and mockery from pro-EU campaigners.

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, who took part in the Normandy landings, said that the comparison was "simply laughable", while others said the comments showed that the former mayor of London was not a suitable candidate to become prime minister. However, Mr Johnson received staunch support from senior Tories backing Brexit, who said he had simply been pointing out that attempts to unite Europe under one authority had failed throughout history.

As another frantic week of campaigning begins, Ruth Davidson, the Tory leader in Scotland, compares those battling for Brexit with Scottish independence campaigners. In an article for *The Times*, she writes that both have failed to spell out how the future "would be better, or even an agreed position of what it might look like".

"I don't want Britain to become Europe's awkward neighbour, twitching the curtains at the world outside, helpless to do much about it," she says.

In other developments:

● George Osborne accused Brexit campaigners of being in denial as he prepared to set out the economic risks in a speech today.

● Iain Duncan Smith accused the chancellor of co-ordinating Brexit warnings from the Bank of England and the IMF.

● The CBI will today cut its growth forecasts because of uncertainty about the June 23 referendum.

● The Electoral Commission will conduct the biggest-ever voter registration and information drive, targeting 28 million households this week.

● Donald Trump insisted that leaving **Continued on page 2, col 3**
Chancellor under fire, pages 8-9