

## Let us know you agree to cookies

We use cookies to give you the best online experience. Please let us know if you agree to all of these cookies.

**Yes, I agree**

[No, take me to settings](#)



## Skipal suspects: Key excerpts from their first interview

13 September 2018



**Russian spy poisoning**



"Our friends had been suggesting for a long time that we visit this wonderful town"

**The two men named as suspects in the poisoning of Russian ex-spy Sergei Skipal in the UK - Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov - gave a surprise interview to RT, Russia's state-run international broadcaster.**

**They claimed they were merely tourists visiting the English town of Salisbury at the time the poisoning happened. Here are some key excerpts from their interview.**

## On what they were doing in Salisbury

"Our friends had been suggesting for a long time that we visit this wonderful town [Salisbury]," Mr Petrov said.

"It's a tourist town - there's a famous cathedral there. Salisbury cathedral," Mr Boshirov said.

"It's famous for its 123-metre spire, it's famous for its clock - the first clock to be invented in the world, and it's still going."

Asked if they had gone to Salisbury to look at the clock Mr Petrov said: "No, no - our plan from the outset was to arrive in London and chill out, basically. It wasn't a business trip. We planned to spend some time in London and travel to Salisbury - of course that was only intended to be a day-trip."

"We arrived in England on 2 March, then went to the railway station to see the timetable, to see where we could go," Mr Petrov said.

The pair planned to spend just a day in Salisbury, he said, because "that's enough - there's no more to do there after one day".

"We arrived in Salisbury on 3 March and tried to walk through the town, but as it was blocked up with snow we could only spend half an hour there," Mr Petrov said.

"Of course, we went there to see Stonehenge, Old Sarum, but we couldn't do it because there was muddy slush everywhere. The town was covered with this slush. We got soaked, went back to the station and took the next train back [to London]."

REUTERS

"We drank hot coffee because we were just soaked. The longest we spent there on the 3rd was one hour," Mr Boshirov added.

Mr Petrov said "we had the aim of visiting Old Sarum [an Iron Age settlement] and the cathedral and decided to finish all that on the 4th".

When asked if they saw those sights he said, "on the 4th, yes. We saw them, but again at lunchtime it started snowing heavily, so we left earlier than planned".

## On whether they went to Sergei Skripal's house

"Maybe we did [approach] Skripal's house, but we don't know where is it located," Mr Boshirov said.

When the interviewer asked them whether they had Novichok or any poison with them, the men emphatically said no.

- [What happened to the Skripals?](#)
- [The new Russian disinformation game](#)
- [Russian spy poisoning: What we know so far](#)
- [What is the GRU?](#)

She then asked whether they had the Nina Ricci perfume bottle which UK investigators say contained the substance.

"For normal blokes, to be carrying women's perfume with us, isn't that silly? The customs are checking everything, they would have questions as to why men have women's perfume in their luggage. We didn't have it," Mr Boshirov said.

## On why they shared a hotel room

The interviewer asked them why they went everywhere together and shared a hotel room.

"It's normal to arrive somewhere and share a twin-bed room. You save money. It's more fun to be together, simpler," Mr Boshirov said.

Both men sounded distressed as they spoke about how their lives had changed since they were named in the UK as Russian intelligence agents who attempted to poison the Skripals.

"When your life [is] turned upside down, you don't know what to do and where to go. We're afraid to go out, we fear for ourselves, for our lives and the lives of our loved ones," Mr Boshirov said.

"We just want to be left alone, we're tired," he said.

Asked whether they had recently been to any European state, the two said they had.

"Sure... In Switzerland, we were there a couple of times... We spent New Year in Switzerland."

## On their alleged work activities

The pair said they had been in Europe to do business related to sports nutrition.

"We examine the market, see if there is something new - some biologically active additives, amino acids, vitamins, microelements. We pick up the most necessary things, come here and decide how to bring the new products from that market here."

---

## Related Topics

[Russia](#)[Vladimir Putin](#)[Russian spy poisoning](#)[Salisbury](#)

---

## Share this story About sharing

---

## More on this story

---

### Skripal suspects: 'We were just tourists in Salisbury'

13 September 2018

**'We've found the suspects'**

12 September 2018

## **What happened to the Skripals?**

13 September 2018

## **What we know so far**

13 September 2018

## **Russia's disinformation game**

9 September 2018

Europe

## **Pope to mafia: You cannot be believers**

15 September 2018 | [Europe](#)

## UK ex-soldier who fought IS sentenced

15 September 2018 | [Leeds & West Yorkshire](#)

## Russian Church cuts ties over Ukraine

15 September 2018 | [Europe](#)

## Top Stories

### Deadly typhoon wreaks Philippines carnage

A presidential official says up to 14 people are killed in the strongest typhoon this year.

27 minutes ago

### Disaster in Carolinas as storm deaths rise

1 hour ago

### Ex-UK soldier who fought IS sentenced

3 hours ago

## Features





**The Battle of Britain's Czech hero**



**After the hype, the verdict - Gompertz on the new V&A**



**In pictures: Hurricane Florence hits**





**Challenging African-American stereotypes**

**'Girl in a mask' draws out school fears**



## **How it feels to be a model at London Fashion Week**

## **Whose problem is cultural appropriation?**

## **Inside the 'world's fittest country'**

**'It's Prince, thinking aloud on the piano'**

Elsewhere on the BBC

**Strange cinema**

Six weird films that never got made

### Daily news briefing direct to your inbox

Sign up for our newsletter

### Most Read

Joe Robinson: Turkish court convicts former UK soldier	<b>1</b>
Storm Florence: Disaster in Carolinas as deaths rise	<b>2</b>
Gulliver's World: 21 trapped on rollercoaster	<b>3</b>
Church will meet to consider Wonga borrower rescue	<b>4</b>
Boy hurt in 'stupid' YouTube roundabout stunt attempt	<b>5</b>
Typhoon Mangkhut: 14 killed as storm batters Philippines	<b>6</b>
'World's oldest brewery' found in cave in Israel, say researchers	<b>7</b>
Former Buzzcocks host Lamarr charged with common assault	<b>8</b>
Why Uganda is the 'world's fittest country'	<b>9</b>
'Broken' rail franchise system to be reviewed	<b>10</b>

 **Why you can trust BBC News**

## BBC News Services

**On your mobile**

**On your connected tv**

**Get news alerts**

**Contact BBC News**

---

## Explore the BBC

**Home**

**Sport**

**iPlayer**

**Radio**

**CBeebies**

**Bitesize**

**Earth**

**Make It Digital**

**Local**

**News**

**Weather**

**TV**

**CBBC**

**Food**

**Music**

**Arts**

**Taster**

**Tomorrow's World**

---

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

[Get Personalised Newsletters](#)

**Copyright © 2018 BBC.** The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**