

Lithuania Weekly:

Fire in the Viršuliskės neighbourhood

Lithuania | Week 18 | Month 5
January 1st - January 7th, 2024

New observations this week: 8
Main channel: Kremlin-aligned outlets

Main keywords:

fire, explosion, apartment building, Viršuliškės, intentionally, police, investigation, refugees, bomb

Main narratives:

- Anti-government narratives;
- Questioning the country's safety;
- Anti-immigrant narratives emphasise refugees from Ukraine.

Overview:

During this reporting week, the stories from Lithuania's remaining Kremlin-aligned media outlets that received the most engagement covered domestic issues. These centred around a fire at an apartment building in Vilnius, in which 15 people were rescued and two died. Malign actors quickly linked the event to different conspiracy theories; for example, referring to it as a terrorist attack, claiming that police knew about the bomb but did not stop the approaching accident, or even assuming that Ukrainian refugees may have brought the bomb.

