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## London Regional Counter Terrorism Protective Security Update

March 2017

### THREAT LEVELS TO THE UK

#### INTERNATIONAL

# SEVERE

AN ATTACK IS HIGHLY LIKELY

#### NORTHERN IRELAND RELATED to the UK

# SUBSTANTIAL

AN ATTACK IS A STRONG  
POSSIBILITY

For more information  
please see:  
<http://www.mi5.gov.uk>

IF YOU SUSPECT  
IT REPORT IT

CALL 0800 789 321

CONFIDENTIAL  
ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE



[www.cssc.gb.com](http://www.cssc.gb.com)



## ACT: Action Counters Terrorism Campaign

### Mark Rowley, Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations National Lead for CT Policing

On Monday 6th March 2017 National Counter Terrorism Headquarters launched a national counter terrorism advertising campaign, the focus of which is the critical role the public can play to defeat terrorism.

Since 2014, the threat from terrorism has been 'SEVERE' - meaning an attack is "highly likely". Against this backdrop the police, together with our security partners, have been working tirelessly to identify and disrupt the terrorist threat, while at the same time raising public awareness of the risks and how we are responding to them.

This is why we have launched this new campaign to urge the public to report suspicious activity to help prevent terrorism. In the past, lives have been saved and terrorists have been thwarted thanks to the public coming forward with information. The campaign will be the first under the new branding platform called ACT.

Recent research tells us that the public are not always clear or confident about what they themselves can do to help defeat terrorism. Responding to this challenge, CT Policing has developed ACT—Action Counters Terrorism—a powerful new tool to bring all CT advisory and appeal messaging under one coherent banner. Our aim is to develop a step-change in equipping communities with information they need to defeat terrorism.

The first campaign to utilise the ACT platform will be national public awareness advertising campaign called "Make Nothing Happen". This campaign, urges the public to contact police about suspicious activity by calling the Anti Terrorist Hotline or an online reporting form, will run across radio and digital channels over the six weeks, backed by national and regional media.

We have always said that "communities defeat terrorism". Our new campaign urges the public to do just that. With that in mind I would like to take this opportunity, through London Protect, to ask you to support our campaign. We ask for your help in amplifying the campaign using your organisation's communication and engagement channels, particularly by social and digital media. We will be using our @TerrorismPolice Twitter account to push our key messages and materials, while the online home for the campaign will be [www.gov.uk/ACT](http://www.gov.uk/ACT).





## London Regional Counter Terrorism Protective Security Update



### A Conversation With ... Assistant Chief Constable Alun Thomas, Head of Specialist Operations, British Transport Police

Alun Thomas joined the British Transport Police's Specialist Operations unit in December 2014. Alun has a wide range of experience in policing and command of major public order events including the Command of the 2014 NATO summit. Alun has responsibility for delivering the PROTECT, PREPARE and PREVENT strands of the Home Office CONTEST strategy for BTP.

#### **How important do you see the relationship between the BTP, London businesses and the travelling community on the rail network in view of the current threat levels?**

BTP's relationship with business communities is essential in reducing crime and addressing the terrorist threat. We look to actively engage with companies to take proactive steps to make London and the transport network a hostile environment for criminal and terrorist activity. Railway stations are no longer only for travel but are large, complex transport hubs populated by a wide range of businesses. We recognise this as a growing trend and have adapted our approach to fit this new model.

Reducing the threat from terrorist activity is our highest priority, we have taken a proactive approach to achieving this and have invested heavily to increase the resources dedicated to this. We deploy a range of measures intended to disrupt and deter criminal or terrorist activity, to reduce the threat to the commercial networks and the wider railway community. These include embedded local patrol teams in addition to armed police, specialist response, behavioural detection officers, and police dogs—to name just a few. These tactical options are not deployed in isolation but are closely linked with local measures across rail and business communities in a joined up approach, supported by an extensive CCTV network and BTP's unique experience within the railway environment.

#### **How has the British Transport Police been engaging with the Transport Community in London?**

We have a range of communication methods including website, text messaging service, social media and local press bulletins. The use of CSSC is an example of just one of the growing strands of communication methods BTP is looking to use to target key networks who are directly or indirectly involved with the transport system. Furthermore we work in close partnership with the Metropolitan and City of London police to deliver projects such as Servator, a multi-agency approach to raise awareness and the reporting of suspicious activity.

Our officers play a crucial role in understanding and building relationships with their passengers, staff, stations and businesses within and throughout London. I have a team of dedicated Counter Terrorism Security Advisors who travel across London and the UK delivering training and providing guidance to businesses and communities.

#### **What do you see as the biggest challenges facing London in 2017?**

The growing diversity in attack methodology from individuals and terrorist networks wishing to cause London harm continues to test us. BTP has been innovative in adapting the way it responds to such incidents, developing our capabilities and maintaining our flexible approach to addressing the threat. We look to build upon partnerships with businesses and the wider railway community to ensure we provide a world class policing service in the face of adversity. We are very proud of our professional working relationships with the Metropolitan Police, City of London Police and other specialist agencies who work with us in this area of expertise, helping us to protect London and the UK. BTP's national footprint is always a challenge, but the complexities that London presents, in terms of population, infrastructure and threat are indeed testing us continuously.



## Protecting London's Night Time Economy

The London Night Time Economy is a significant factor of cultural and economic regeneration and a magnet for domestic and international tourism. The Night Time Economy contributes £26.3bn to London's annual GDP and supports 1 in 8 jobs. This figure is expected to rise to £28.3bn by 2029.

Whilst there is no specific threat to the London Night Time Economy, venues such as pubs, clubs and theatres have been seen as attractive targets for terrorists in the UK and abroad, such as the attacks at the Admiral Duncan pub, Tiger Tiger Nightclub, the Bataclan theatre attack in Paris, and most recently at the Reina nightclub in Istanbul in Turkey on New Years Day.

Whilst we recognise the need for Night Time Economy venues to remain friendly and welcoming environments there is a balance that can be achieved in making sure that those who are responsible for security at your venue are prepared for the unlikely event of a terrorist attack, however unlikely, by making sure they have created a security plan which should include –

- ◆ Details of all the protective security measures to be implemented, covering physical, information and personnel security
- ◆ Instructions on how to respond to a threat (e.g. telephone bomb threat)
- ◆ Instructions on how to respond to the discovery of a suspicious item or event
- ◆ A search plan
- ◆ Evacuation plans and details on securing your premises in the event of a full evacuation
- ◆ Your business continuity plan
- ◆ Communication plans

The best possible way to prevent an attack is to deter any potential hostiles by promoting a strong and efficient security culture. By achieving this your site can stop an incident whilst the attackers are in the hostile reconnaissance phase of their plan. Hostile reconnaissance described the phase where an attacker is looking to gather as much information on a potential targets as possible. Potential attackers may visit potential targets a number of times prior to an attack. Where pro-active security measures are in place, particular attention is paid to any variations in security patterns and the flow of people in and out. Examples of Hostile Reconnaissance may be -

- ◇ Unusual interest being taken in the outside of your premises including parking areas, delivery gates, doors, entrances and queues.
- ◇ Groups or individuals taking unusual interest in the location of CCTV cameras and controlled areas.
- ◇ People taking pictures – filming – making notes – sketching of the security measures in and around your premises. Tourists should not necessarily be taken as such and should be treated sensitively, but with caution.
- ◇ Overt/covert photography, video cameras, possession of photographs, maps, blueprints etc, of critical infrastructures, electricity transformers, gas pipelines, telephone cables etc.

If you have suspicions about somebody's activities or behaviour, call the Anti-Terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. If you have information that requires an urgent or immediate police response, always dial 999.

For specific advice relating to your venue, contact the nationwide network of specialist police advisers known as Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) through your local police force. They are co-ordinated by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO). Further information and advice can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crowded-places>





## Summary of Incidents at Home and Abroad

### Quebec, Canada - 29th January 2017

On Sunday 29th January 2017 a gunman entered the Quebec Islamic Cultural Centre before opening fire on 50 people inside. Six people were killed and a further eight injured. Two male suspects were initially arrested with one of the males now charged with six counts of first degree murder and five counts of attempted murder. The suspect was known for his far right views but a motive for the attack has still not been established.

*London Protect Comment:* An attack which illustrates a method utilised and which reinforces the need to plan and prepare for similar events. The presentation "Run-Hide-Tell" provides the whole community with strategic and tactical support & advice to prepare their individual response plans which we strongly advise need to be rehearsed and reviewed regularly. "Run-Hide-Tell" is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film>

### Paris, France — 3rd February 2017

On Friday 3rd February 2017 a male attempted to carry two bags into the Carousel Du Louvre, an underground shopping centre at the Louvre Museum. Reports suggest the male was told that he could not enter with the bags by soldiers on routine patrol. In response, police state that the male suspect shouted 'Allahu Akbar' and attacked a soldier with a machete. The suspect was shot five times in the stomach and leg and sustained serious injuries. The man, who was arrested, is reported to have claimed that he had the intention of committing a symbolic attack against France by defacing one of the museum's masterpieces with spray paint found in his backpack, but denied he was acting under orders from the Islamic State (IS) group.

*London Protect Comment:* This successful interdiction by the French military highlights the advantages of pro-active patrols, a clearly visible deterrent willing and able to challenge, detect and detain those intent on instigating an attack. On Monday 6th March National Counter Terrorism Policing launched a new national counter terrorism awareness campaign. It will focus on the critical role that the public can play in defeating terrorism. Follow messages from @TerrorismPolice and visit the website at [www.gov.uk/ACT](http://www.gov.uk/ACT) for more information.

### London, United Kingdom—25th February 2017

Four teenagers accused of planning to travel to Syria to join so called Islamic State appeared in court on terrorism charges. A fifth teenager also appeared in court accused of having terrorist materials. The teenagers, all males aged 15 to 19 years, were arrested in London on Monday 20th February following a pro-active operation by the Met's Counter-Terrorism Command.

*London Protect Comment:* The UK counter terrorism strategy, CONTEST, aims to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. It is organised around four work streams, each comprising a number of key objectives • Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks; • Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism; • Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and • Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack. The strategy is currently being reviewed and an update will be published soon by the Home Office: Office of Security and Counter Terrorism.



## London Regional Counter Terrorism Protective Security Update

### What is a Threat Level?

In the UK the threat level from international terrorism is decided by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC). However it is the responsibility of Mi5 to set the threat levels related to Northern Ireland.

### What do the threat levels mean?

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

- **LOW** means an attack is unlikely.
- **MODERATE** means an attack is possible, but not likely
- **SUBSTANTIAL** means an attack is a strong possibility
- **SEVERE** means an attack is highly likely
- **CRITICAL** means an attack is expected imminently

Several factors are considered before making a judgement on setting the threat levels. These factors include:

**Terrorist Intentions** – The overall aims of terrorists are examined through intelligence and open source information. Possible targets are also looked at to analyse ways in which they may achieve their aims.

**Terrorist Capabilities** – Analysis of previously used attack methods and intelligence informs the knowledge about current capabilities of terrorists. The analysis would also include the potential scale of attack.

**Available Intelligence** – A wide range of information will form the judgements about the threat. This information is rarely a specific threat, but is more often fragmentary revealing only small parts of the bigger picture. The information includes the nature and level of current terrorist activity whilst making comparisons to previous attacks and events in other countries.

**Timescale** – Although threat levels express the likelihood of an attack, they do not have an expiry date. To ensure they remain current, however they are reviewed regularly. With some attacks taking years to plan and some only a short time, a judgement is made based on the information available about how likely an attack may be in the near future.

Vigilance is extremely important regardless of the current threat level. By sharing national threat levels with the general public it keeps everyone informed and explains the context for the security measures (for example airport style security or bag searches) which we may encounter on a daily basis. It is recommended that Businesses and organisations should approach security planning in the following manner:

- **Be impact driven** – how would an attack either directly or indirectly affect your business?
- **Be vulnerability led** – continue to identify vulnerability within your security regimes that could allow criminals (opportunistic or otherwise) to operate.
- **Have a threat informed approach** - recognise what the current and emerging threats and associated risks are and plan accordingly. Use published threat levels to help develop and prioritise security plans.

**In an emergency call 999.  
For other non emergency police enquiries call 101.**

**Further information is available from [www.gov.uk/nactso](http://www.gov.uk/nactso)**

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