



THREAT ADVISORY

This message contains information about the current threat to the United Kingdom from terrorism. Recipients are asked to consider if action may be required in relation to the contents of this message

National Counter Terrorism Protective Security Threat Advisory Message — 23rd August 2017

UK TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

INTERNATIONAL in the UK

SEVERE
AN ATTACK IS HIGHLY LIKELY

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

NORTHERN IRISH RELATED in the Britain

SUBSTANTIAL
AN ATTACK IS A STRONG
POSSIBILITY

New Threat Advisory Messages from UK Protect

Since February 2017 we have been working to develop improved communication with business in relation to protective security advice and terrorism incidents. Listening to the business community it has been clear that we need to continue to develop these products and are therefore introducing this new Threat Advisory.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi, National Chief Police lead for Protective Security, and myself are committed to developing the collaboration between the police and business community in order to detect, deter, and protect the United Kingdom from terrorism.

We recently held a summit at the Guildhall in London which was attended by 450 representatives from across business sectors. This was a significant opportunity to inform and listen to the business community and has led to the start of the Step Change Programme. This will be looking at how we work together across a wide range of areas including communication, legislation and regulation, research and innovation, training and business partnerships. A series of workshops are now planned to identify areas that we can deliver in the short, medium and long term. This Threat Update is one of the first products from that work. A further summit is currently being planned to provide an update on progress and receive feedback.

Significant progress is also being made with the national roll out of the Cross-sector Safety and Security Communications (CSSC) network, this will provide the structure at a national and regional level to enable this communication and dialogue. In line with this, I am also dedicating resources to this area of work and these will be in place shortly.

As with the early editions of London and National Protect newsletters and incident updates, this threat update will evolve as we work with other agencies, to identify relevant information that we can share and listen to your feedback.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Scott Wilson

Detective Chief Superintendent
National Coordinator Protect and Prepare, National Counter Terrorism Police Headquarters



Current Threat

This advisory is designed to support businesses in line with the current threat level, which remains at Severe. Preparation is key to protecting the businesses and the public from the risk and harm posed by a terrorist incident.

We are sending this message in order to provide an update on the terrorist and extremist threat to the UK and to seek your continued assistance in supporting our joint efforts, to create a safe and secure environment in which to conduct business and go about our daily lives.

We are grateful to the many of you who actively engage with us on this challenge to such good effect, however the current threat from extremists of all kinds, but particularly from the international terrorist groups Al Qaida (AQ) and Daesh/ISIL, and those directed and inspired by them, remains at Severe, which means that we assess that an attack is highly likely.

We would remind you that this assessment is generic and does not provide any detail as to potential attack locations or timings, and whilst it is therefore true that an attack could occur anywhere at any time, we know that there are factors that potentially make some locations more attractive or vulnerable to terrorist attack than others.

The implications of this assessment have been brought home in the attacks in the UK this year; at Westminster, Manchester Arena, and London Bridge and in the case of Finsbury Park Mosque we were reminded of the threat from extremists from the extreme right wing. Further afield there have been numerous incidents across Europe and elsewhere, from the attack in Hamburg, where the attacker took a knife from a supermarket shelf and killed one person and injured four others, to the arrest in Australia of an individual who was reportedly planning to place an explosive device on an aircraft and experimenting with chemicals, and most recently the attacks in Spain.

All of these incidents remind us that the terrorists are constantly adapting their methods and attack plans to exploit the weaknesses in our defences. Ultimately, we find ourselves in a threat environment that you will have seen senior security and police figures describe as of unprecedented intensity, and thus the likelihood of an attack occurring remains one of when rather than if.

As you will know from your risk assessments the threat to you as the business community comes not just from Terrorism, but also from criminality, amongst other things. In particular the increasing use of corrosive liquids (acid etc) by criminals, provides us collectively with the dual challenges of ensuring we prevent such materials coming into the possession of those who would use them to cause harm, and how to ensure that we are prepared to deal with an incident involving them.

Our emergency, intelligence, and health services employ a unified and coordinated approach, alongside local and national government, to ensure we are able to provide a robust response to all terrorism and crime related eventualities. We also jointly undertake threat and intelligence informed emergency planning, and regularly test and exercise our plans, to ensure that we have effective responses to the evolving threats we face.

We would therefore recommend that you regularly review your risk assessments, contingency plans, and testing and exercising regimes to ensure that you are satisfied that you are protecting your interests and those of your customers and the communities you operate within.



Given the wide variety of items from: knives; DIY supplies; household chemicals; and hire vehicles, that can and have been used by terrorists to undertake attacks.

I would in particular ask you to consider:

1. How you can work with your neighbours to increase the effectiveness and coordination of any protective security activities you are individually engaged in, to ensure you maximise your joint investment in these activities.
2. How you identify and report suspicious behaviour and transactions.
3. How you manage the security and sale of items that may be used by terrorists or criminals, in particular corrosive chemicals, knives and bladed tools etc.

In respect of knives I would ask you to consider participation in the government's voluntary sale of knives initiative; details of which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers/sale-of-knives-voluntary-agreement-by-retailers>.

4. How you would identify and respond to a chemical related incident of any kind.
5. How you respond to suspicious items: <https://act.campaign.gov.uk/>
6. How you manage, deploy and co-ordinate evacuation, invacuation, and lock down procedures to meet a range of potential threats.



In relation to all of these questions we would draw your attention to the advice contained within the NaCTSO Crowded Places Guidance which can be found at :

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/619411/170614_crowded-places-guidance_v1.pdf



and more generally to that contained within CPNI's web site which provides authoritative protective security advice:

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/>

