



# COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

## 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 — 19th December 2017

### UK TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS

INTERNATIONAL in the UK

**SEVERE AN ATTACK IS  
HIGHLY LIKELY**

NORTHERN IRISH RELATED in the  
Britain

**SUBSTANTIAL AN ATTACK  
IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY**

NORTHERN IRISH RELATED

**SEVERE AN ATTACK IS  
HIGHLY LIKELY**

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

### IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES — SALE, THEFT AND LOSS OF RELEVANT CHEMICALS

#### LEGAL ADVICE

This Threat Advisory Notice may contain information sourced from publications by terrorist organisations. Please do not search, access or download source material of this nature as such activity will alert you to government authorities and may constitute an offence under The Terrorism Act 2000.

#### SOURCE

The information in this document relates to terrorist related incidents and plots that have taken place in a number of countries. A variety of official and open source references have been used to produce this report.

The content relating this Threat Advisory Notice focuses on the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), in particular those that have may have been in a non commercial process.

#### INFORMATION

We have seen a steady increase in the number of occasions when Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) are used during terrorism motivated attacks in the United Kingdom and overseas, such as in Europe and the USA.

This Threat Advisory Notice has been produced in order to raise awareness of this methodology and advise businesses on how to recognise suspicious transactions, their legal responsibilities and how to report information to the police.

Instructions on the how to make explosives and construct an IED have been published for some time by international terrorist groups such as al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), see LEGAL ADVICE above, and have led to their use by terrorist groups and individuals seeking to cause mass casualties.

## INFORMATION

We would ask businesses to review their sales processes for relevant chemicals that could be used in the construction of such devices and report any suspicious transactions, theft or losses.

Incidents involving the use of IEDs have included:

11th Dec 2017	United States	Explosive device detonated at Port Authority bus Terminal, New York
15th Sept 2017	United Kingdom	Explosive device partially detonated on underground train at Parsons Green Station, London.
16th August 2017	Spain	Explosion at a house in Alcanar prior to a terrorist attack in Barcelona.
20th June 2017	Belgium	Attempt to detonate an explosive device at the Central Rail Station in Brussels
22nd May 2017	United Kingdom	Explosive device detonated at the end of a concert at Manchester Arena, Manchester.
17th Sept 2016	United States	Explosive device found on a train at Elizabeth, New Jersey

## ADVICE

The Poisons Act 1972 was amended to restrict the availability of certain chemicals and places a duty on the retailer to report suspicious transactions as well as theft and losses of relevant chemicals.

### How to recognise suspicious transactions:-

A suspicious transaction is any transaction or attempted transaction where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the product is intended for malicious purposes. Whether behaviour is suspicious has to be judged on a case-by-case basis.

Indicators of suspicious behaviour may include when a customer:

- ◇ Appears nervous, avoids communication, or is not a regular type of customer
- ◇ Attempts to purchase an unusual amount of a product or unusual combinations of products
- ◇ Is not familiar with the regular use(s) of the product(s), nor with the handling instructions
- ◇ Is not willing to share what he/she plans to use the product(s) for
- ◇ Refuses alternative products or products with a lower (but for the proposed use sufficient) concentration
- ◇ Insists on paying cash, especially large amounts
- ◇ Is unwilling to provide identity or home address details if requested
- ◇ Requests packaging or delivery methods that deviate from what would be ordinary, advised, or expected



**ADVICE**

**What to do in case of suspicion:-**

If you are suspicious of a transaction or attempted transaction, or discover a theft or disappearance that cannot easily be explained, report it to the UK Contact Point on 0800 789321 or email:

[Chemical.Reporting@Met.Police.UK](mailto:Chemical.Reporting@Met.Police.UK)

Try to record as much detail as possible regarding the customer and transaction, such as:

- ⇒ Height, body type, hair style and colour, facial hair
- ⇒ Tattoos, piercings, scars, glasses and/or any other distinguishing features
- ⇒ Registration, make, and model of any vehicle
- ⇒ Time of purchase, products and amounts involved
- ⇒ Keep any receipts, ID details and CCTV records; any documentation handled by the customer should be preserved for fingerprinting
- ⇒ You have the right to refuse the transaction. Reporting should be completed without undue delay, even if the transaction is declined

**For Further information and a list of the relevant chemicals, see links below:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hazardous-sites-and-substances>

[You can make a difference! - Sell chemical products responsibly](#)

[You can make a difference! - Sell chemical products responsibly – Poster](#)