



## **Event Guidance Note**

### **Counter Terrorism**

The Government has identified the most vulnerable part of the UK to a terrorist attack is our crowded places, which includes major events. International terrorists in particular, view crowded places as an opportunity to create high impact, mass casualty terrorist attacks. Terrorism is preventable. Use the advice below to help keep your event safe.

#### **The Threat:**

MI5 publish a national threat level to help the public plan for appropriate levels of security. The current threat level is available at: <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/home/about-us/what-we-do/the-threats/terrorism/threat-levels.html> this can also be found by searching for 'MI5 terrorist threat level'.

A terrorist attack could take one or a combination of the following forms-

**Vehicle Borne Device**, either an abandoned vehicle or by using a vehicle to ram into an area and then detonating.

**Person Borne Device**, such as the tactics used by a suicide bomber.

**Placed Device** e.g. an abandoned bag or disguised as rubbish.

**Marauding Firearms /Weapons Attack** similar to the tactics used in Paris.

### **Points to Consider in an Event Plan**

**Suspicious Behaviour.** Remain Vigilant! Terrorist attacks can be prevented by identifying and reporting suspicious behaviour. Make sure your team know how to identify it and where to report it. What is suspicious?

- People asking unusual questions about security arrangements or specific events.
- Filming, drawing, taking notes or photographs, or just watching for extended periods, focusing on security cameras, hallways, fire exits, access and egress routes.

- Behaving strangely, e.g. nervous, perspiring, wearing overly warm clothing.
- Bringing unusual packages into premises.
- Found in off-limits areas, particularly near plant or server rooms, or places of possible concealment.
- Vehicles parked in suspicious circumstances
- Packages or bags left unattended

**Lockdown Guidance.** The Government 'Stay Safe' guidance explains how to keep safe during a marauding firearms or weapons attack. It advises people to **RUN** away from the danger if possible, if that is not an option people should aim to **HIDE** and lockdown the area around them, finally if it is safe to do so people should dial 999 and **TELL** the Police what is going on and what they have seen. The sooner the emergency services have a clear picture of what is occurring, the sooner they will be able to intervene. Further information on Stay Safe and Lockdown is available at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/478003/NaCTSO\\_Guidance\\_Note\\_1\\_-\\_2015\\_Dynamic\\_Lockdown\\_v1\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/478003/NaCTSO_Guidance_Note_1_-_2015_Dynamic_Lockdown_v1_0.pdf)

this can also be found by searching for 'NaCTSO Lockdown Guidance'.

NaCTSO have also produced a 4 minute video on 'Stay Safe' guidance- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film> this can also be found by searching for 'stay safe the national police chiefs council'.

**Good Housekeeping.** Do not let rubbish accumulate as it provides an ideal hiding place for an explosive device. Inform staff to contact event control if rubbish is building up in an area.

**Instructions on Finding a Suspicious Package.** Give clear guidance on how to cope with a suspicious package. Use the mnemonic **HOT** to help assess suspicious packages. Is the item **HIDDEN** or is it in plain view (like something accidentally left behind), is it **OBVIOUSLY SUSPICIOUS** (e.g are there wires protruding? Does it smell strange?). Is it **TYPICAL** for your venue (e.g. a suitcase would be out of place at stadium). Consider – Who should be contacted? Radios/ mobile phones should be used behind hard cover and at least 15m away from the package. Do not touch or move the object. Clear the area of visitors and staff in a calm, orderly manner. Once the area is clear of guests the member of staff should leave the area BUT continue to stop others entering it.

**Secondary Devices.** Both International Terrorists and Irish related terrorists have placed secondary devices near cordons or evacuation points. Make sure these areas are safe before diverting people there.

**Stand Off Distances.** Consider the minimum standoff distances for a - rucksack sized device - 100 m / suitcase up to car - 200m / van to lorry - 400m.

Counter Terrorism Security Advisers (CTSAs) can provide support and guidance to enable you to run a safe successful event, for further advice

please contact the CTSA's on 01303 297340 or via  
[ctsa.bouverie@kent.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ctsa.bouverie@kent.pnn.police.uk).