

ADVISORY SERVICES

Weekly Digest – Terrorism Edition

21st July 2023

#PROTECTDUTY

We want to improve protective security and preparedness for **terrorist attacks** at public places.



Agenda

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Terrorism
and Threats

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Activism

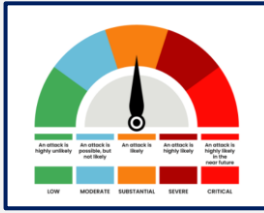
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SOP Guidance
-Protect Duty
-Protests



Terrorism and Threats

The current threat level for the UK MAINLAND is 'SUBSTANTIAL', meaning a terror attack is 'likely'
The current threat level for Northern Ireland is 'SEVERE', meaning a terror attack is 'highly likely'
 For further information see GOV.UK.



Islamic Terrorism Number 1 Threat to UK says Braverman as CONTEST Update Released (Sky News 18th July) ^{1. 2.}

The Home Office published its update to the UK's counter terrorism strategy (CONTEST) this week (the first since 2018), as Home Secretary Suella Braverman MP laid out the current terror threats to the Nation and warned "*the risk from terrorism is once again rising*". Braverman also stated:

"We now face a domestic terrorist threat which is less predictable, harder to detect and investigate; a persistent and evolving threat from Islamist terrorist groups overseas; and an operating environment where technology continues to provide both opportunity and risk to our counter-terrorism efforts."

Reporting figures from 2018 to date, show Islamist terrorism represents 67% of all domestic terror attacks on the UK and Islamist terrorists represent 64% of persons in custody for terrorist offences. The figures also show 39 terror attacks have been foiled since 2018, with CT police preventing eight 'late-stage attacks' in 2022 alone. There has been nine 'declared' terror attacks in the UK in the last five years (killing six and injuring 20) and 80% of attacks used weapons such as vehicle and knives rather than explosives. Earlier this year Scotland Yard reported they were handling 800 live terror investigations. CONTEST's latest update can be found [here](#).

Almost ¼ of all Terrorists in Custody to be Released this Year (Independent 20th July)

Further to Suella Braverman MP's comments as the CONTEST updates were published this week, Home Offices sources report 40-50 of the 232 terror prisoners currently serving sentences in the UK are set to potentially be released in the next 12 months. Together with those prisoners considered a "terrorist risk," the prison, probation and police inspectorates (in a joint report) suggest in total 120 prisoners requiring enhanced supervision are due to be released this year putting such a strain on existing CT resources, services will be affected for 'decades'. Head of Counter-terror policing Matt Jukes warned:

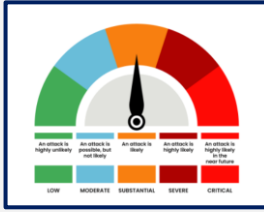
"History has taught us to be wary of those individuals both during their time in prison and on release."

Enhanced supervision (brought in after ex-con terror attacks in 2019 and 2020) requires those prisoners considered a "terrorist risk" to be closely monitored for 12 months following their release. The report suggests this strategy is now "unsustainable" considering the numbers due to be freed.

Terrorist to be Deported to England Imminently after Serving Sentence in Kenya (Belfast Telegraph 20th July) ^{3.}

A Convicted terrorist coming to the end of a nine-year prison sentence in Kenya for possessing bomb making materials and fraud, is set to be deported back to the UK upon his release, after a Kenyan High Court ordered his deportation earlier this week. Jermaine Grant, suspected to be part of the al-Shabaab terror network operating in East Africa and who shared a flat with 'White Widow' terror suspect Samantha Lewthwaite, will return to the UK, although when is still unclear. Confusion and speculation exist as to the date Grant's sentence will (or has) finished. Some reports suggest he has been released already, after the Kenyan government stated his sentenced ended on 24th June 2023, but prison authorities report he should remain in prison until next month whereas the UK government is understood to have thought his sentence was up this time next year. Grant is expected to be subject to a terrorism prevention and investigation measure (TPIM) on his return to the UK and Lewthwaite is still at large.

Terrorism and Threats



Victims of UK Terror Attacks Blast Compensation Scheme as ‘Broken’ (Guardian 17th July)

The Criminal Injuries and Compensation Authority (CICA) has come under criticism from victims of UK terror attacks following the publication of results from a survey. The survey involving victims from 11 such attacks, state two-thirds were very unsatisfied at the level of service they received following the incidents, describing it as ‘unfair’, ‘broken’, ‘unmanageable’ and ‘unreasonable’. Brendan Cox, Co-Founder of Survivors Against Terror stated in response to the survey:

“Survivors deserve better. They have been attacked – not because of who they are, but as proxies for the British state. Therefore, the British state has a responsibility to ensure that they are supported,”

Victims surveyed were caught up in the 7/7 London Bombings, the Fishmonger Hall stabbings, the Manchester Arena attack, and terror attacks in Paris, Tunisia, Mumbai and Bali. 68% thought the process was unfair and unreasonable, 62% felt they were not treated with dignity or respect, proof requested to prove psychological (and sometimes physical) injury was described as unreasonable and over 50% of the 132 surveyed respondents said they couldn’t speak to CICA staff for assistance. A government spokesperson responded saying: *“we know more must be done, which is why the government is reviewing the support available, to better address victims’ needs.”*

Wales Hosts Two-day Counter Terror Preparedness Exercise Involving Music Event (CT Policing 13th July) ⁴.

Newport, Wales hosted a counter-terror preparedness event last weekend that involved collaborations from emergency services such as: Gwent Police, West Midlands Police, CTPHQ, CTP Wales, CTP West Midlands, South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust, St Johns Ambulance and Welsh Government. The exercise centred around a terror attack at a music event hosted at the Newport International Sports Village and spanned two days, involving over 300 people. Chief Superintendent Helen Williams, CTPHQ National Coordinator for Protect & Prepare stated:

“CTP Wales are grateful for the support from Newport Live who have, as a not-for-profit organisation, contributed by providing the venue and support for the exercise. Their intention throughout has been keeping the public who attend their venues as safe as possible for their events.”

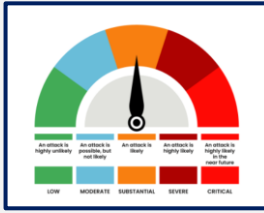
National Security Bill Becomes Law (Gov.UK 11th July)

The Government’s new National Security Bill received Royal Assent and was passed into law last week as the Home Office declared the new Act will help *“protect the British public, modernise counter-espionage laws and address the evolving threat to our national security”*. They also stated it will help prevent state sponsored hostile acts including *“espionage, foreign interference (including in our political system), sabotage, and acts that endanger life, such as assassination”* as they report the main threat to UK security is still Russia with increasing concern over China and Iran. Security Minister Tom Tugendhat said:

“We are facing growing threats from foreign states. Over the past years we’ve seen attempts to harm our people, damage our economy and undermine our democracy. Iran’s recent attempts to kidnap or kill people living in the UK are beyond contempt, and a fundamental violation of our sovereignty. The National Security Act provides the tools to expose this type of activity and hold those responsible to account.”

The act also introduces the Foreign Influence Registration Scheme (FIRS) which criminalises state sponsored spying.

Terrorism and Threats



Anjem Choudary Arrested on Suspicion of Terrorism Offences (Evening Standard 18th July) ⁵.

One of two men arrested on Monday as part of an investigation into suspected terrorism offences by counter-terror police, has been identified as convicted hate preacher Anjem Choudary. Choudary, 56-years-old from East London was arrested in an early morning raid at his home address together with a Canadian National at Heathrow airport who was arrested later in the day upon arrival from Canada. Both men were arrested for suspected 'membership of a proscribed organisation contrary to section 11 of the Terrorism Act.' Choudary and the 28-year-old are being questioned at a London police station as the investigation continues which includes searches at three East London addresses.

Far-Right Extremist Denies Plot to Attack Left-wing City Centre Bookshop (BBC News 15th July)

26-year-old William Howitt from West Bridgford, Nottingham appeared at Birmingham Crown Court last week charged with 'preparation of terrorist acts.' Howitt, a former soldier, is alleged to have plotted an arson attack on a left-wing bookshop in Nottingham city centre, he wrote a plan for the attack and was found in possession of equipment suspected to be used in carrying it out. Howitt pled not guilty and his trial starts in October later this year.

Teacher Struck-off after Tribunal Shows Evidence of ISIS-Grooming (Romford Recorder 10th July) ⁶.

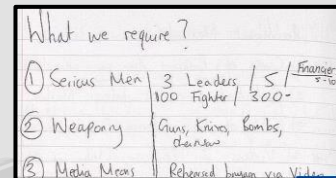
31-year-old, 'ISIS obsessed' former teacher Umar Haque, currently serving a life sentence (with a minimum of 25 years) for terror plotting, had his teaching license revoked at a tribunal earlier this month after being accused of grooming and brainwashing up to 200 school children. Haque taught at the 'Lantern of Knowledge' Muslim boys' school East London, where he showed ISIS videos to pupils and at the Essex Islamic Academy (Ripple road Mosque), where he groomed 16 children through terrorism role play exercises, also instructing them to 'keep watch' for other teachers and training them to fight. Evidence revealed recently by the teaching watchdog suggests Haque planned on creating a 'death-squad' of school children and may have been plotting to attack The Queen. Attending the first day of the tribunal video via link Haque interrupted the hearing saying:

"It does not bother me an inch that the Teaching Regulation Agency seek to impose upon me a lifetime ban from teaching for indeed I will merely be re-employed by The Islamic Caliphate (The Islamic State) in the future..."

His outburst is similar to the one he delivered during his 2017 trial when he had to be 'dragged out' of court after 'ranting' about 'Western domination'. Haque was jailed in 2018 after handwritten notes were discovered in his possession plotting terror attacks at 30 locations including: the English Defence League (EDL), Transport for London (TFL), The Queen's Guard, Shia Muslims, banks, airports, tourist attractions and parliament.



Headline 3:
Teacher Umar Haque
(Daily Mail 2023)



Headline 3:
Evidence of plots
(Daily Mail 2023)

Activism Updates

ACTIVISM

Monday 24th April Onwards – Just Stop Oil

Location: Slow Marches in London from 24/4

Cause: New campaign by JSO following XR's The Big One

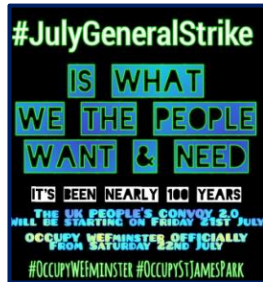
Details: [INFO](#)

Saturday 22nd July – Occupy Westminster

Location: Parliament, Westminster, London @14:00

Cause: Peoples protest, mass non-compliance encouraged. March begins from Downing Street @Midday, Westminster Bridge @13:00, Parliament Square @14:00, BBC (Portland Place) @15:00, Downing Street @ 16:00

Details: [TELEGRAM](#)



Saturday 22nd July – BBC Protest

Location: BBC Broadcasting House, London @Midday – 15:00

Cause: Stop ULEZ

Details: [TWITTER](#)

Saturday 22nd July – Truth be Told

Location: Chamberlain Sq, Birmingham @13:00

Cause: Freedom Gathering

Details: [TELEGRAM](#)

STRIKES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
British Museum Workers PCS	NHS Junior Doctors BMA	NHS Junior Doctors BMA	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]	NHS Senior Doctors BMA	First Manchester UNITE	First Manchester UNITE
NHS Junior Doctors BMA	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]	Suez Waste Collection UNITE	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]	NHS Senior Doctors BMA	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]
St Mungo's UNITE				Rail RMT	Rail ASLEF [Overtime Ban]	Rail RMT
				Suez Waste Collection UNITE	Suez Waste Collection UNITE	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
First Manchester UNITE	First Manchester UNITE	First Manchester UNITE	Rail ASLEF [London Underground]	Rail RMT [London Underground]	First Manchester UNITE	Gatwick Airport Agencies UNITE
Rail RMT [London Underground]	Rail RMT [London Underground]	Rail RMT [London Underground]	Rail RMT [London Underground]	Suez Waste Collection UNITE	Gatwick Airport Agencies UNITE	Rail RMT
			Suez Waste Collection UNITE		Rail ASLEF [London Underground]	
					Rail RMT [London Underground]	

Strike Calendar Wed 21st – 29th July (Strike Calendar 2023)



PROTECT DUTY

KNOW YOUR THREAT/KNOW YOUR RESPONSE

KNOW YOUR THREAT

Know how to spot suspicious behaviour, engage regularly with [PROTECTUK](#) where you can keep up to date on the latest training and guidance.

KNOW YOUR RESPONSE

Provide updated and regular threat briefings. Maintain an effective risk assessment. Maintain training and engagement with **PROTECT UK**.

MARAUDING TERRORIST ATTACK

GUIDE

- Know your evacuation routes.
 - Ensure you familiarise yourself with alternative routes should paths become blocked.
- Be able to inform and guide people with clear instructions.

SHELTER

- Know your first aid plans and RVPs.
- Lock/barricade yourself in.
- Move away from the door.

COMMUNICATE

- Know who to tell - Ensure incident escalations are fully updated with correct contact details and shared appropriately.
- Location, Suspects, Directions, Descriptions.

SUSPICIOUS ITEMS

CONFIRM

- Has it been deliberately hidden.
- Is it typical for this location.
- Is it obviously suspicious.

CLEAR

- Do not touch the item, stay away from the hazard.
- Be out of sight of the item or behind hard cover.
- Cordon off the area in advance of police arrival.

COMMUNICATE

- Inform your control room/supervisor
- DO NOT USE MOBILE PHONES/RADIOS within 15m.

CONTROL

- Public should be stopped from entering the area.
- Try to keep eyewitnesses on scene.

BOMB THREAT

- Remain calm and talk to the caller
 - Note the caller's number and record the call
 - Write down the exact wording and time of call
1. Where exactly is the bomb right now?
 2. When is it going to explode?
 3. What does it look like?
 4. What does the bomb contain?
 5. How will it be detonated?
 6. Who put the device in place?
 7. What is your name?
 8. What is your address?
 9. Do you represent a group or acting alone?
 10. Why have you placed the bomb?

Note the following:

The caller's

Sex / Nationality / Age

What threat language was used

Well-spoken / Irrational / Incoherent

Caller's voice

Calm / Excited / Accent – note if possible

Background sounds

Street noises/House noises

Please feel free to engage with Wilson James Advisory Services to further connect to the Protect Duty Program

Reach out to us by emailing Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk

Protest Guidance

GENERAL ADVICE

- It is recommended you maintain a good awareness of your surroundings if in the vicinity of a demonstration or public gathering as some protests may escalate into violence.
- Anticipate localised travel disruption in the area of the demonstration.
- Allow additional time for journeys or arrange alternate routes to minimise potential delays.
- If in the area of a spontaneous protest, it is recommended to leave the area by the quickest means possible and seek a secure location.
- Continue to monitor media sources for updates and additions to the scheduled events.
- Consider the possibility of regular protests occurring throughout the summer as they are often not isolated events, with activists returning to the same locations time and again.

KEEPING STAFF INFORMED AND PREPARED

- Inform staff that routes to work may be impacted by protest groups.
- Keep staff updated and provide guidance on how to approach the site (e.g. consider dressing down, no identification on display on approach to site, organised travel from transport hubs).
- Morning Briefs to include lockdown measures and scenario discussion to aid confidence in SOPs.
- Escalation and Incident procedures to be brief. Allocated Team Leads to be communicated.
- Named First Aiders on site to be communicated to the rest of the team daily.

ACCESS CONTROL

- Secondary access points to be used, in order to keep main access areas clear.
- Perimeter Surveillance to be proactively undertaken.
- Reinforce security on approach to site.

PATROLS

- To identify suspicious activity in the area.
- Vary patrols by changing routes and frequency.
- Check all exterior perimeter fencing.

STAFF

- Consider increasing the number of staff on duty.
- Consider patrolling in pairs if appropriate.
- Staff access to the building may be prevented. Consideration should be given to working from another location.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CYBER SECURITY

- Monitor social media platforms for chatter regarding protests in your vicinity.
- Further guidance to staff could be given regarding their personal cyber security to ensure no cyber-attacks via home working Wi-Fi.



Contact
Advisoryservices@wilsonjames.co.uk