

National Newsletter

UK Protect National Newsletter : Edition 10 : November 2018

Message from the National Coordinator Protect and Prepare: Nick Aldworth



I feel incredibly privileged to have been appointed as the National Coordinator Protect and Prepare (NCP), not just because of the great opportunities and challenges that the role brings, but also because I get to continue working with amazing people both within policing and the private sector. I've spent the first few months trying to understand the detail of the many strands of responsibility I now hold, and stocktaking how we are doing. We're in good condition.

2017 was obviously a watershed year for counter-terrorism, which required a different approach to protecting against this insidious, and often murderous, crime. While we have not seen devastating attacks in 2018, the tempo of terrorist planning has not stopped and as I write we—with our security service colleagues—are investigating over 700 cases and processing an all-time-high number of leads.

Step-Change became a mantra for how we responded to 2017 and has now become a structured, joint programme of activity between the police and the private sector. I am so grateful to all those of you who have given time and knowledge to this programme. We have decided that the next Step-Change summit will be at next-year's Police and Security Expo at Farnborough. I am confident that we will have a lot to say there about the progress we've made.

Key to how we move forward will be to look at three specific areas: Communication in terms of breadth of our reach; Content with regards to how we inform and advise businesses and communities; Capability through working with partners, such as the Security Industry Authority, to better mobilise and empower existing private sector security resources. Doing this on a national scale will be ground-breaking.

As we approach Black Friday, Christmas and the New Year, we all need to ensure we have considered the steps we can take to protect crowded places and spaces. In this edition of UK Protect we have provided a check-list to help you plan, together with a link to the full crowded places guidance. Following the recent incidents in the United States where a number of suspect packages were sent through the mail, we have also included a reminder of mail handling advice.

I hope I will get to see many of you over the weeks leading up to the festive period and, whatever your beliefs, I hope you are able to have some time with family or friends. I also hope you will reflect proudly on what you have all achieved in 2018 in keeping our country, your businesses and your people safe from terrorism. I'm proud to be part of that with you.

ACT e Learning—Counter Terrorism Training Course



Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) e-Learning is an innovative 45-minute training programme that could help prevent terror attacks. The tool, developed to provide nationally accredited counter terrorism guidance helps industry better understand, and mitigate against, current terrorist methodology. Free to use, the package can be divided into short sections to suit business needs and it can take just three quarters of an hour to complete – 45 vital minutes that could save lives.

The ACT 2018 campaign was implemented to reinforce one particular message, that communities defeat terrorism. We encourage businesses to apply for registration and make use of this free resource.

For more information, please visit the National Counter Terrorism Security Office website [here](#).

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Mail Screening and Security



As we approach the festive season businesses and organisations can see a significant increase in the amount of mail being received. This can be for a variety of reasons, from an increase in transactions, to staff receiving deliveries at work. Ahead of this busy period please find below some useful links to advice published by the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI).

[Possible Indicators that a Delivered Item Might be of Concern](#)

A list of bullet points providing advice in relation to identifying different types of threats that can be received through the mail.

[Action Upon Discovery of any Suspicious Delivered Item](#)

A summary of actions that can be taken by anyone should a suspicious article be identified.

[Mail Screening Matters Toolkit](#)

The “Mail Screening Matters Campaign” toolkit contains material to promote awareness and good practice within businesses and organisations in relation to mail screening including a summary of the indicators and appropriate action to take.

[BSi PAS97:2015 Mail Screening and Security Guide](#)

A tool to help take security managers through the necessary steps to achieve effective and appropriate mail screening measures for their business or organisation.

Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or via confidential hotline: 0800 789 321.

Counter-Terrorism Policing launches biggest-ever winter advertising campaign

Working together with communities, Counter Terrorism Policing wants Christmas security all wrapped up.

Shoppers are being asked to put security at the top of their ‘must have’ lists this Christmas.

With the festive rush about to get underway, Counter Terrorism Policing is today, Monday 19th November, launching its biggest-ever winter advertising campaign as part of ACT: Action Counters Terrorism.

While there is no known increased threat to busy town and city centres, people flocking to stock up on Christmas gifts will see police working alongside security personnel to encourage everyone to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious.

Across the country, security messaging will appear on advertising boards and digital screens around crowded Christmas events and key shopping locations, reminding the public about the crucial role they play in helping to tackle the terrorist threat.

The winter advertising campaign aims to provide a ‘whole society’ approach where police, security staff, retail workers and the public come together to minimise the chance of attacks and mitigate the impact they can have.

Launching the campaign the National Coordinator Protect and Prepare, Nick Aldworth, said:

“As people are enjoying the festive season they will see a visible security presence with police patrols and additional security in crowded places.

“Unpredictable deployments across the UK will also provide an additional layer of protection, with specially-trained uniformed and plain clothes officers working to deter, detect and disrupt hostile reconnaissance and encourage the public and businesses to be their extra eyes and ears and report anything that doesn’t feel right.

“While there is no specific threat we have sadly seen how crowded places have become targets and we want to remind everyone that the police and our partners are working hard to protect them.





Security Check List for Businesses

This checklist has been created to assist businesses in the lead up to Black Friday, Christmas and the New Year. During this period we can see a significant increase in the number of people visiting retail and night time economy premises. This checklist will help to ensure that the right protective security measures are in place.

- ☐ Review your Security and Business Continuity Plans
- ☐ Identify your risks, based on the current threat
- ☐ Increase staff vigilance: Ensure all staff are fully briefed to positively engage with customers and report any suspicious activity to security or police
- ☐ Enhance your security presence where appropriate and consider staff patrolling in high visibility clothing
- ☐ Security officers should have a visible presence, clearly display their ID badges and be briefed
- ☐ Review your Emergency Assembly Point
- ☐ Review and communicate any emergency/evacuation procedures to staff and ensure all necessary equipment, including first aid supplies, are readily available
- ☐ Review Evacuation, Invacuation and Lockdown procedures, ensure that you have plans for vulnerable staff and visitors and designated marshals to support this activity
- ☐ Check the ability to control access points to your premises
- ☐ Check CCTV is fully operational and that you have available staff members who are trained to operate it
- ☐ Suspicious Items: Ensure staff understand how to respond to suspicious items. Do staff know the [HOT](#) principles?

For further information visit:

www.nactso.gov.uk, www.cpni.gov.uk, [Crowded Places Guidance](#),
[Emergencies: preparation, response and recovery](#)

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Spotlight on wider Counter Terrorism work: Prevent is; alongside Protect, Prepare and Pursue; part of the Government's CONTEST Strategy

An update from the National Co-ordinator Prevent:

Prevent seeks to safeguard and support vulnerable people to stop them from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. At its roots, Prevent supports local projects that build community resilience and the capacity to challenge extremist narratives. We support the Home Office, through grassroots organisations and partners, to deliver this work.

In responding to an average of 6300 Prevent referrals a year, most policing effort is focussed on identifying and responding to those who are most vulnerable, or those who pose the greatest risk of radicalisation to others. We call this Prevent Case Management, and our frameworks, risk assessments, partnerships and tactics enable us to provide a bespoke response in each case.

The CONTEST strategy review in 2018 extended the work of Prevent further to include the rehabilitation and disengagement of those already involved in terrorism. Whilst some of this work focusses on prison releases, we also use our partnerships to tackle those who hold hard-line extremist views. Prevent is working jointly with the Home Office to refine guidance and structures to better involve partners, and their unique skills and experience, in the management risk.

Prevent has constantly evolved to respond to new terrorist threats and the complex needs of individuals. We have enhanced our approach; learning from work to tackle other harms such as gangs, drug abuse, and physical and sexual abuse, and we learned from the 2017 attacks. Our response is increasingly multi-layered and involves a growing network of partners, including within our Mental Health and complex needs hubs.

We have achieved a lot, but I see huge opportunities to work ever more closely with Protect and Prepare colleagues, especially across the private sector. Whilst 41% of Prevent referrals on average relate to people aged 21 years and over, many of whom will be in full-time employment, only 1% of referrals come from business and a similar proportion from communities. When you consider the emotional contract we all have with our employers, and that people often build close relationships with colleagues, it is clear we may be missing opportunities to identify and respond to radicalisation concerns early.

Key to changing this is raising awareness about Prevent, and through increasing public trust by recognising the care and concern people have for someone they are worried about. It is vital we take concerns seriously and handle them sensitively; often someone will have agonised over a decision for weeks before they ask for our help. We also need to understand the barriers to reporting: *I'm worried about what happens next? Will the person go to prison? Will this harm my relationship? What are the repercussions for my family or community?* In order to respond to these challenges, we must all understand how Prevent referrals are handled so that we can provide accurate advice and guidance. It's also vital we reassure people their concerns will be taken seriously. And, we must show people that we care, by treating someone who is being radicalised as a vulnerable victim rather than a suspect.

Only when people trust us and feel confident in sharing concerns early will we ever truly be successful in preventing terrorism.

Summary of Current Terrorism Threat Levels

Current threat from international terrorism

The current threat level for international terrorism in the UK is **SEVERE**

Current threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism: The threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism is set separately for Northern Ireland and Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland).

The current threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Northern Ireland is **SEVERE**

The current threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Britain is **MODERATE**

For more information on Threat Levels click [here](#)

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