



PROTECT SCOTLAND

UPDATE
Recipients are asked to consider if action may be required in relation to the contents of this message



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Scottish Region Counter Terrorism Protective Security Update

UK TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS		
INTERNATIONAL IN THE UK	For more information please see http://www.mi5.gov.uk	NORTHERN IRISH RELATED IN BRITAIN
CRITICAL AN ATTACK IS EXPECTED IMMEDIATELY		SUBSTANTIAL AN ATTACK IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY
London Terrorist Incident Parsons Green - Friday 15 th September 2017 2230 hrs		
Change in Threat Level for International Terrorism to CRITICAL		

This briefing provides an update on the terrorist attack which occurred in London on the morning of Friday 15th September 2017. Following this incident the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) reviewed the threat level from International Terrorism to the UK. The Prime Minister chaired an initial Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) meeting at 1300 hours today where the threat level to the UK from International Terrorism was reviewed and at that time remained at SEVERE, meaning that an attack was highly likely. Following further COBR meetings, at 2030 hours today, the Prime Minister made the decision that the Threat level within the UK will rise to CRITICAL. This means that that an attack is not only highly likely, but that an attack is expected imminently. This will remain under constant review and will be reduced only when JTAC are content that, on the basis of intelligence available, it is appropriate to do so.

This briefing note will be in 3 parts; a review of known facts regarding the incident itself; comment from a number of sources regarding the incident and finally practical advice, guidance and measures that organisations should consider putting in place to protect the security of their people and estate.

The approach should be one of no complacency, remaining alert not alarmed.

Incident details:

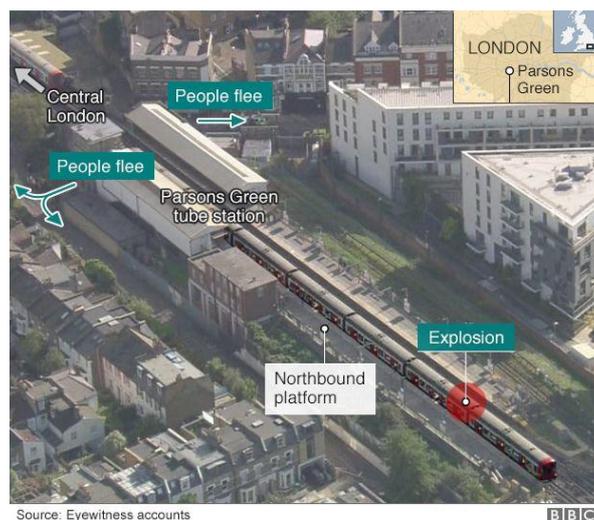
About 08.20 hours on Friday 15th September 2017, the Metropolitan Police and the London Ambulance Service responded to reports of an explosion on a train on the District Line near to Parsons Green railway station, London.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu, the senior National Coordinator for CT policing, has declared it a terrorist incident.

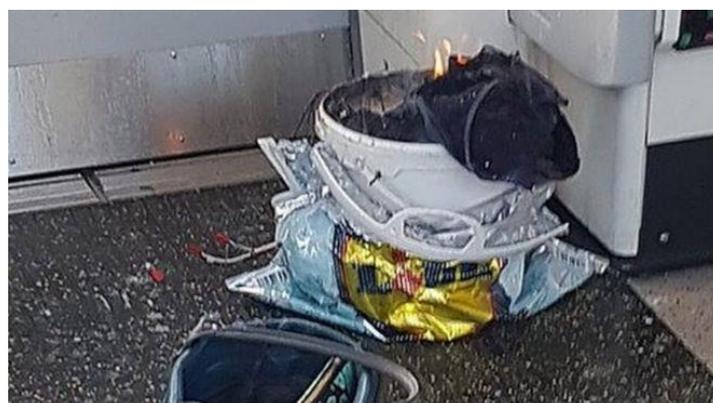
Witnesses describe seeing a white “builder’s bucket” in a supermarket bag which was on fire and a “wall of flame” in the train carriage.

A total of 44 people have been injured and treated in hospital, predominantly with flash burns, with this incident being declared as a terrorist investigation by Counter Terrorism Policing Command. The investigation is fast moving and at an early stage, however be assured Police Scotland will support British Transport Police and the wider Counter Terrorism network as required.

The victim support page link is <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/parsons-green-attack-september-2017-support-for-people-affected>



Map of location of incident at Parsons Green



Photograph of Improvised Explosive Device found on train at Parsons Green

Assistant Chief Constable Bernhard Higgins, Police Scotland

“With the threat level now at Critical, Police Scotland will be increasing our operations to protect the people of Scotland, our businesses and public places.

“This will include increasing the number of armed police on patrol across the country. The public should expect to see armed officers on foot patrol at key locations and crowded places across the country.

“Please do not be alarmed by the presence of these armed officers. These measures are being taken to increase security at these sites, and to reassure residents, businesses, workers and visitors so they can go about their daily lives as normally as possible.

“Along with event organisers, we will also be reviewing all significant events taking place over the next few days and will increase the security footprint around those events where it is deemed appropriate.

“We have well-rehearsed plans to respond to major incidents and we will be continuing to work with our partners to address the current heightened threat.

“However, there is no intelligence to suggest there is any specific threat to Scotland but I would ask the public to remain alert and report anything suspicious.

“Terrorists want to create discord, distrust and fear. The police stand together with all communities in the UK and we will take action against any criminal behaviour, which seeks to undermine society, especially where crimes are motivated by hate. Communities defeat terrorism, which is why we must maintain the strong relationship we have between the public and the police.

Assistant Commission Mark Rowley, Head of National Counter Terrorism Policing

“Our investigation is continuing at speed and our priority is to identify, locate and arrest those responsible. Hundreds of police officers are pursuing numerous lines of enquiry, trawling through hours of CCTV footage and speaking to witnesses.

“The device and remnants left at the scene have been taken away and are being examined by forensic experts. While this work is ongoing, there is no doubt in my mind that those responsible intended to cause great harm and injury.”

So far, detectives have spoken to 45 witnesses and continue to receive information from the public to the confidential anti-terrorist hotline. The public has sent 77 images and videos to investigators via the UK Police Image Appeal website.



AC Rowley, continued

“My thoughts are with all those who have been affected by this terrible attack. It is an attack on all of us.

“I urge communities across the UK to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour to the police immediately. Please do not hesitate, no matter how insignificant you may think the information you have is – please let us decide. It could be crucial.”

Anyone with information is urged to call the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321 or, in an emergency, always call 999.

Anyone with footage or images from the incident is urged to upload them at www.ukpoliceimageappeal.co.uk where they will be looked at by investigators.

The independent Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre has raised the threat level from international terrorism to critical. This means that their assessment is not only that a terrorist attack is highly likely but that a further attack may be imminent.

Military personnel have been drafted in to protect national infrastructure sites, allowing additional armed police officers to carry out patrols.

Communities across the UK can expect to see more officers, both armed and unarmed, on patrol by foot and in vehicles over the weekend. In particular, they will be patrolling at crowded places, iconic sites, transport hubs and ports.

This may mean disruption for those who are travelling. The public are asked to be patient and plan ahead, allowing time for delays.

Police are reviewing the security of events across the UK and working with businesses and organisers to make events as secure as possible. Security checks at events will be enhanced, so people attending events should arrive early and allow extra time for these checks. If you don't need to take a bag, don't take it.



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First Minister Nicola Sturgeon

“Our thoughts tonight remain with those who sustained injuries in today's attack in London.

"Earlier this evening, I received full briefing regarding the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre's decision to increase the threat level from severe to critical, and to invoke Operation Temperer.

“The Scottish Government Resilience Room (SGoRR) has been activated and will remain in close contact with Police Scotland and the UK Government. Senior officials will meet again tonight to ensure we remain briefed on the practical implications for Scotland and that all appropriate actions are being taken.

“While it is natural that any increase in the threat level is of concern, the public should be reassured that all appropriate precautionary measures are being implemented. My advice to the public is to remain vigilant and report any concerns to the police - but otherwise to go about daily life as normal.”

Chief Inspector Stuart Wilson, British Transport Police

“This morning's events have highlighted the importance of people reporting anything suspicious or out of the ordinary. We are rightly proud of the fact that we have a largely open and accessible transport network in this country. However this means the police and public must work together to ensure it continues to remain as secure and safe as possible.

It can be easy to become oblivious to your surroundings. During this week people are reminded of the important part they play in keeping themselves and fellow passengers safe.

If we can utilise the eyes and the ears of the public in surveillance of the transport system, combined with our substantial CCTV coverage, we stand every chance of detecting and stopping potential attacks.

If you see anything suspicious you can text from your phone to 61016, call us on 0800 40 50 40 or tell a member of rail staff, or one of our officers when you see them on patrol. In an emergency, always call 999.”



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Police Scotland

Our communities would expect Police Scotland to do everything possible to prevent further attacks and keep them safe. We are reviewing our resources in order to increase police presence at key sites (such as around the transport network and other crowded places) and we continue to review key events over the coming weeks.

We need businesses and organisations to continue to support this effort by ensuring your own staff and buildings are prepared to deal with an attack.

- We continue to offer support through Project Griffin and Project Argus.
- Where you have them, we encourage your security staff to be vigilant and proactive in monitoring your business areas for suspicious activity.
- Where businesses are co-located, we recommend that you work together to ensure your shared areas are protected.
- Try and minimise crowds at your business and make sure you are aware of who is coming in and out of your premises.
- Keep buildings secure where appropriate.
- Pay attention to areas around exits, especially when large numbers of staff and customers are due to leave

From a Police Scotland perspective, the public can expect to see armed police officers deployed at certain locations. At this time we are asking the public to remain calm but alert. If you see anything that causes you concern, then let us know immediately, if you have suspicions about someone's behaviour call us.

Look out for anything that seems out of place, unusual, or doesn't seem to fit in with day-to-day life. It may be nothing but if you see or hear anything that could be terrorist related trust your instinct no matter how small then ACT and call 999.

Other key points include:

- You should also review your building and business continuity plans in the light of this attack.
- You should ensure that first aid points are fully stocked and the location of key equipment is made clear to all staff.
- We also recommend that staff are directed to the Citizen Aid app and Run, Hide, Tell on YouTube. The number of casualties successfully treated by the public after recent attacks highlights the importance of understanding first aid.
- NaCTSO has refreshed its latest guidance on recognising the terrorist threat and we would recommend you access this at www.nactso.gov.uk



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We would remind you that despite being at the highest level of threat, the threat assessment is generic and does not provide any detail as to locations or timings. Whilst it is 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, particularly soft targets like crowded places as has been seen today.

Businesses and organisations are encouraged to take cognisance of guidance issued within previous editions of Protect Scotland and the following links provide additional useful information that may assist when deploying the tactical options;

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film>

<http://www.cpni.gov.uk/advice/physical-security/cctv>

<http://www.nactso.gov.uk>

<http://www.mi5.gov.uk>

CPNI with the support of NACTSO has recently launched the Crowded Places pages- 'Crowded Places Advice.' These pages bring together advice to help protect crowded places as well as advice on what you may wish to consider should your personnel be visiting crowded places.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>

You will also be carrying out your own reviews of security levels and some of you will have innovative and new ways of delivering protective security, which you may wish to share with other partners. If you deploying such tactics and are willing to share them, please forward them to NaCTSO who will circulate them. Please contact them on nactso@cpni.gsi.gov.uk

NaCTSO Advice for Businesses

What follows is a reminder of previous published advice from NaCTSO on what you might practically do to configure your response to this heightened threat. This is not intended to be a comprehensive review of activity but to prompt your thinking.

- Encouraging staff to actively monitor news and media sources to ensure they maintain situational awareness.
- Review your security plans to ensure that they are fit for purpose and ensure that your staff, volunteers and where appropriate visitors or contractors are aware of their contents.
- It would be easy to concentrate on suicide IED as the threat, however you should ensure that you focus your planned response on the full range of potential terrorist attack methodologies, particularly those from vehicle as a weapon, bladed weapons and IED's (person borne, placed or vehicle), although other methodologies should be actively considered.



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You should consider how your resources and capabilities are deployed to deter, detect and disrupt and thus defeat hostile threat actors and terrorists. To do this you would want to consider the following:

- The use of your communication channels to reassure legitimate users of your sites and to project a hostile operating environment for threat actors.
- The proactive deployment of security resources to conduct unpredictable security activities both within and in the footprint around your sites and venues to deter hostile reconnaissance and detect suspicious behaviour. They should be encouraged to engage individuals acting anomalously to determine what the cause is.
- Ensure all staff take responsibility for security, not just security personnel. They should be reminded to be vigilant, and use their customer service skills to proactively engage with customers, visitors and others.
- Active engagement with customers, visitors and individuals at or in the vicinity of locations in the way described above is both an opportunity to help and reassure legitimate site users and, in context to, deter or detect hostile threat actors.
- Engage with your neighbours to ensure that your plans and activities are mutually supportive. In particular you may wish to ensure that any security activities are coordinated to ensure that gaps and inefficiencies are avoided.
- Ensure that your staff are briefed on the threat and what constitutes suspicious behaviour. They will know what is normal for their regular places of work and what is not, positively encourage them to investigate or report things which feel out of place to the ordinary and have mechanisms to escalate such reporting.
- Ensure that your personnel are aware that ethnicity, religion, colour, clothing, and gender are not helpful in identifying hostile threat actors or terrorists. However such individuals are likely to display suspicious or non-baseline behaviours. Again it is important to stress that this different behaviour may have many causes both benign and malign, and is not an indicator of terrorism. It is only through identifying, engaged and assessing why someone is behaving differently that a conclusion can be drawn.



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Consider your action on suspicious activity and object reporting

- What are your 'action on' plans if your security or staff identify a suspicious individual or objects outside or inside your premises?
- Are your staff aware of their options for Evacuation/ Invacuation/ Lockdown procedures, and do your plans include provision for vulnerable staff and visitors?
- Do your staff know where the emergency assembly points?
- Have you identified any protected spaces within your venues and do staff know where they are?
- Are your staff lists up to date and accessible so that you can account for them in the event of an incident?

Search and Screening

- Given finite resources ensure you should consider focusing it on addressing your highest priority threats
- Configure your search regime to the threat you are looking to mitigate – E.g. prioritise detection of larger threats, accepting smaller items may not be detected If you are primarily worried about mass-casualty threats, don't look for penknives
- Configure any search and screening regimes to minimise queues.
- Define list of prohibited items – communicate this both to customers and to personnel conducting the search
- Be clear about what the search process is (and isn't) aiming to detect
- Be clear about who you need to screen and where you will conduct the process
- Conduct search and screening measures efficiently, effectively and politely

Articulate a clear "Vision" of the above to all involved in delivery

Stadia and venues specific considerations. In addition stadia and venues may additionally wish to consider the following:

- Review event schedules and associated safety & security plans for the next 20 days and then on a rolling basis as long as the heightened alert state persists. This time period should not be taken as an indicator the anticipated duration of the heightened threat level, but rather prudent planning advice.



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- Consider staged or managed dispersal through multiple exit points to minimise crowd densities at the end of an event
- Consider security and perimeter surveillance at of all stages of event. In particular consider how you manage the dispersal phase of an event and how you use your personnel and security resources to continue to recognise and react to suspicious behaviour and objects.
- Ensure activity deployed to identify and act on suspicious behaviour is maintained for the dispersal phase of an event and that known entry and exit points are considered within any plan.
- Consider your extended footprint as part of any security and safety planning / activity
- Consider maintaining the same perimeter control measures at the end of an event as you would at the start.
- Ensure that the public are aware of enhanced security measures before arrival to enhance compliance and ensure that they do not bring items that would slow down any search regime you have in place.
- Consider your ability to actively message staff and visitors within your venue to pass on instructions or information in the event of an incident or response to a threat.

Stay Safe – “RUN
HIDE TELL”



Protect yourself
from online
radicalisation



Get Safe Online
Free expert advice



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The citizenAID App will help reduce the anxiety from difficult decision making in an unfamiliar



YOU can save lives!



If you see anything suspicious, no matter how insignificant you might think it is, please contact the anti-terrorism hotline on 0800 789 321. It may be a vital piece of information.

**In an emergency call 999
For non-emergencies call 101
For the Anti-Terrorist Hotline call 0800 789 321**



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