



**COUNTER  
TERRORISM  
POLICING**

**ACT**

**ACTION  
COUNTERS  
TERRORISM**

# An Introduction to the National Counter Terrorism Policing Network

Working to Keep  
People Safe from  
Terrorism



Counter Terrorism Policing is a collaboration of police forces working with the UK Intelligence Community to help protect the public and our national security by preventing, deterring and investigating terrorist activity.

We do this by working in local to global partnerships - from neighbourhood policing teams supported by a national network of specialist officers and staff, to our investigators and expert advisors in every corner of the world.

Sadly, as we have seen, terrorist attacks can happen at any time or in any place without warning. So as the threat continues to evolve, so must we. The challenges we face are not only in person, they are also online and in the shadows.

We are dedicated to making the best of our resources and unique skills working with technical experts, digital innovators and world renowned investigators.

Most of what we achieve may never see the light of day but be assured that we

have the very best and brightest working around the clock in an effort to keep us all safe. These ordinary men and women do extraordinary things in an effort to thwart terrorist planning and safeguard those who are at risk of radicalisation. Our personnel are working to protect our critical national infrastructure, institutions and crowded places, and to pursue and bring terrorists to justice.

**In 2017 we were all reminded of just how real the terrorist threat is.**

A series of five attacks in London and Manchester resulted in 36 innocent lives lost. Hundreds more suffered injuries – many of which were life changing.

Over the past ten years we have developed a national Counter Terrorism Policing network to confront this ever evolving threat. Principally our focus is on Daesh, al Qaeda and those who are inspired by them. However, our work is also addressing the threat from the Extreme Right Wing and other poisonous ideologies that seek to divide us and do harm.

The task we face is complex and ranges from confronting lone actors intent on carrying out crude attacks, to sophisticated networks pursuing ambitious and coordinated plots. At any one time we can be working on around 700 investigations across the network. There are approximately 3000 individuals who have the potential to pose a significant threat and a further 20000 who are of interest to ourselves and intelligence service partners.

**Neil Basu**, Assistant Commissioner and national lead for Counter Terrorism Policing



## Confronting the threat

The UK police and security and intelligence services work tirelessly to confront the terrorist threat and keep the public safe.

Together with MI5 and other partners, the CT Policing network is working on hundreds of live cases at any one time, involving hundreds more individuals. These investigations involve a range of activities, including attack planning, fundraising, online radicalisation and accessing illegal weapons.

We play a major role in stopping people getting drawn into all forms of terrorism

and violent extremism. This includes prosecuting, disrupting and deterring extremists and working with communities to safeguard vulnerable people so they are prevented from committing acts of violence.

CT Policing personnel carry out daily activities to help increase the protection and security of the UK's critical infrastructure, public institutions, businesses and places - including those that are potential terrorist targets.

## CONTEST

The national approach to countering the threat of terrorism is set out in the government's CONTEST strategy.

The principal objective is to reduce the risk of terrorism to the UK and its interests overseas. Policing plays a key role in delivering this strategy, alongside partners in the intelligence services.

Our mission to **'keep people safe from terrorism'** is achieved by organising Counter Terrorism Policing business to reflect the four pillars of CONTEST:

### PURSUE

to stop  
terrorist  
attacks

### PREVENT

to safeguard  
people from  
becoming terrorists  
or supporting  
terrorism

### PROTECT

to strengthen  
our protection  
against terrorist  
attacks

### PREPARE

to mitigate  
the impact  
of terrorist  
attacks

## PURSUE – a decade of bringing offenders to justice

Across the network we have specialist officers and staff dedicated to disrupting terrorists and bringing them before the courts.

Working closely with MI5 and the Crown Prosecution Service, our teams are regularly investigating, arresting and helping to secure the convictions of dangerous offenders.

Within the CT Policing network are experts who are working on cases that range from hi-tech, sophisticated plots, being planned by coordinated networks, to low-tech lone actor offenders and dangerous radicalisers preying on vulnerable individuals.

We have professionals working in intelligence, surveillance, source handling, forensics, investigations – including digital and financial. They are all based regionally but work to a strategy set by the Senior National Coordinator for CT Policing.

Each investigation will be assigned to a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) – an experienced detective who will lead his or her team from the initial stages through to preparing cases for court. The SIO is likely to have worked in tandem with MI5 colleagues and will take over the lead role in the run up to executive action (the arrest phase) through to prosecution.

High risk cases will be overseen by an Executive Liaison Group (ELG) which will be responsible for ensuring the correct balance between evidence gathering and public safety.

### FACTfile

CT Policing can have in excess of 700 live operations at any one time. The majority of these will be in partnership with MI5 but some are unique to policing. These will be wide ranging and have recently included a chemical weapons attack, a plot by a group of women to carry out an attack in London, an extreme right wing group based in the North East planning to target MPs and a lone actor intent on attacking military or police personnel.



## PREVENT – safeguarding those vulnerable to radicalisation

Officers and staff working in Prevent policing are focussed on safeguarding individuals that are vulnerable to radicalisation.

There is a multi-agency approach, working with communities to give support those at risk from all forms of extremism.

The police play a key role with initial assessments and, where appropriate, liaise with other agencies to support an individual if there is no threat of terrorism.

Designated Prevent officers and staff are an integral part of Counter Terrorism Units enabling them to work closely with other specialist officers in this area for a collaborative approach to tackling the terrorist threat.

The role of Prevent officers is to offer advice and support to communities, individuals or organisations at risk from terrorism. This is done through group engagement activities and one-to-one contact.

Officers and staff help co-ordinate interventions with those at risk and regularly monitor progress.

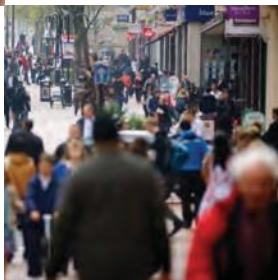
Interventions are primarily arranged through a Channel panel. This is chaired by the local authority and is made up of members from across a range of services such as education, health and housing. Often a mentor is appointed to help support individuals, which could include guidance on faith matters or access to other support mechanisms.

### FACTfile

Published data shows there are around 7000 referrals to Prevent annually. These come mainly from the police and statutory bodies that have a duty to report concerns. A number also come from members of the public. Around 18% of these individuals are referred on to a Channel panel and may receive bespoke support. Around 40% may not pose a terrorism risk but if they are still considered vulnerable will be referred to other agencies for support – such as mental health services.

Supporting vulnerable people at the earliest stage means they are less likely to be radicalised, come to or cause harm.

*Based on 2017/18 data*



## PROTECT & PREPARE – keeping communities and crowded places safe

The office of the National Co-ordinator Protect and Prepare works closely with the CT Policing network to deliver protective security advice and awareness across the UK. Using teams of specialist officers and staff, this is coordinated through the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO). There is also a strong working relationship with a number of government departments and agencies including the Home Office, Cabinet Office, Department for Transport, UK Border Force, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Security and Intelligence Services.

Close relationships are actively maintained with the private sector and other stakeholders to ensure that there is thorough consultation on protective security policy, practice and operational activity across all police force areas.

Additionally, the International Protect and Prepare Unit is a collaborative UK government and CT Policing team. Its focus is to work with overseas partners to reduce the risk of terrorist attacks to British tourists abroad.

### FACTfile

#### PROTECT

Following the Borough Market terror attack in June 2017, several members of the public who had escaped unharmed stated that they had remembered and followed the Run, Hide, Tell advice developed by NaCTSO. An international version of Run, Hide, Tell has also been produced to inform holiday makers and staff working in resorts on what action to take to mitigate an attack.

### FACTfile

#### PREPARE

Following the Manchester terror attack in May 2017, CT Prepare plans - which had been developed over a number of years in forces across the United Kingdom - were initiated. The activation of Critical Threat Plans, and the deployment of Operation Temperer (the Strategic Armed Policing Reserve), were coordinated with emergency service partners, local authorities and businesses. This served to mitigate the impact of this attack and provide essential reassurance to the public.

## National units

At the centre of the network sits the **National Counter Terrorism Policing Headquarters** (NCTPHQ), which devises policy and strategy, and provides corporate and support services to the CT Policing network. The HQ co-ordinates national projects and programmes, and advises the government on how much and where CT budgets should be allocated to police forces in England and Wales. Most importantly the NCTPHQ provides a single national CT Policing voice for key stakeholders including government, security agencies and other partners.

Alongside the headquarters is the **National Operations Centre**, a central operational command made up of units

that provide operational support to the national network. Teams within the Operations Centre include: Ports, Intelligence, Firearms Suppression and a Coordination Centre.

The Operations Centre leads on a number of critical areas of business across the UK, positively supported by regional colleagues in the CT Policing network. The 2017 terror attacks in London and Manchester saw the Centre support the investigations, from coordinating essential resources across the regions – including additional investigators and surveillance teams – to monitoring the reaction of the far right in response to the tragedies.

## The Network

The National Counter Terrorism Policing network stretches across the UK and has specialist officers and staff working with MI5 and other partners to find information and evidence to thwart terrorist planning and help bring offenders to justice.

Around the country there are 11 regional counter terrorism units (CTUs) and intelligence units (CTIUs), which bring together intelligence, operations and investigation functions, engaging with a range of partners to prevent terrorist activity.

The regional **Counter Terrorism Units** gather intelligence and evidence to help prevent, disrupt and prosecute terrorists. Each CTU provides coordination and specialist support and has a wide range of expertise including skilled detectives, financial investigators, analysts, forensic specialists and high-tech Investigators. The CTUs are located as follows:

Regional CTUs	Forces in region	CT lead force
London	Metropolitan & City of London	Metropolitan
North East	West Yorkshire, Cleveland, Durham, Humberside, Northumbria, North Yorkshire & South Yorkshire	West Yorkshire
North West	Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Cumbria, Isle of Man, Lancashire & Merseyside	Greater Manchester
South East	Thames Valley, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey & Sussex	Thames Valley
West Midlands	West Midlands, Staffordshire, Warwickshire & West Mercia	West Midlands

The regional **Counter Terrorism Intelligence Units** are also resourced by the police forces in their respective areas and carry out primarily intelligence gathering operations, and are located as follows:

Regional CTIUs	Forces in region	CT lead force
Eastern	Bedfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Suffolk & Norfolk	Bedfordshire
East Midlands	Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, & Nottinghamshire	Derbyshire
Northern Ireland	PSNI	PSNI
Scotland	Police Scotland	Police Scotland
South West	Avon & Somerset, Devon & Cornwall, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Guernsey & Jersey	Avon & Somerset
Wales	South Wales, Dyfed-Powys, Gwent & North Wales	South Wales

Other parts of the CT network include Special Branches and other specialist units.

## **Action Counters Terrorism (ACT)**

The co-operation between the public and police is a powerful defence against terrorism. Consequently attacks are prevented and lives are saved.

Communities defeat terrorism and that is why Counter Terrorism Policing launched Action Counters Terrorism (ACT), a campaign encouraging everyone in the UK to share any information that may help prevent an attack.

ACT enables Counter Terrorism Policing to join together all the ways in which the public can help to defeat terrorism in one place with the overarching message, 'communities defeat terrorism – you can help save lives'.

Anyone who sees something unusual or suspicious should trust their instincts and ACT. If you think someone is vulnerable to being radicalised, ACT.

**ACT** | ACTION  
COUNTERS  
TERRORISM

**Report online at:**  
[www.gov.uk/ACT](http://www.gov.uk/ACT)

**Find out more about the work of CTP at:**  
[counterterrorism.police.uk](http://counterterrorism.police.uk)  
[twitter.com/terrorismpolice](https://twitter.com/terrorismpolice)  
[facebook.com/counterterrorismpoliceuk](https://facebook.com/counterterrorismpoliceuk)  
[youtube.com/counterterrorismpolicinguk](https://youtube.com/counterterrorismpolicinguk)  
[Instagram.com/terrorismpolice](https://Instagram.com/terrorismpolice)  
[linkedin.com/company/counter-terrorism-policing](https://linkedin.com/company/counter-terrorism-policing)

# ABOUT THE MET

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Founded by Sir Robert Peel in 1829, the Metropolitan Police Service (the Met) is one of the oldest police services in the world. From the beginning, the purpose of the Met has been to serve and protect the people of London by providing a professional police service. This remains our purpose.

Our vision is to make London the safest global city, a city in which people are free to be themselves, express themselves and flourish. We strive to earn the trust and confidence of every community and take pride in the quality of our service so that people love, respect and are proud of London's Metropolitan Police.

The Met is responsible for maintaining the peace and is accountable in law for the exercise of policing powers, and to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) for the delivery of efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure. At all times the Commissioner and her officers remain operationally independent, in the service of the public.

The Met 'New Scotland Yard' is internationally recognised for its history, law enforcement and skills in fighting crime, however a constantly changing city needs an accessible police service which reflects and understands the people it serves. It needs an effective police service equipped for the 21st century with a visible service which every day continues to earn the trust and confidence of Londoners.

Today, the Met is made up of more than 39,000 officers and staff, plus thousands of volunteers; we are one of the largest employers in London and the South East of England. The territory we serve covers 620 square miles and is home to over 8.6 million people. The Met is the UK's largest police service and has 25% of the total police budget for England and Wales.

We're proud that the Met is seen as a world leader in policing. The 'Scotland Yard' brand is known around the world as a symbol of quality investigation and traditional values of policing. Thanks to this reputation, our services are highly sought after, either through using our officers and staff in operational matters or by training others and giving them the opportunity to learn from our experiences.

# ABOUT THE MET

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## LONDON: THE AMAZING GLOBAL CITY WE POLICE

London is unique: 'the world under one roof'.

Its ever-changing population is set to grow towards 9.2 million by 2020 and exceed 10 million the following decade. It is probably one of the most diverse cities in the world. The complexities of policing a city on this scale are huge. A seat of Parliamentary, Royal and Diplomatic power, London is a centre for protest, for criminality, for transport.

Londoners tend to be younger than the rest of the UK, more than three million of us were born abroad, just under half of which arrived in the UK less than 10 years ago.

London is also the world's most popular business and travel destination, receiving 31.5 million Visits in 2015, 12.9 million from the UK. It is a global city, recognised around the world, economically, politically, financially and creatively. London's greatness comes from its openness to the world, and this in turn has helped build world-renowned institutions which have preserved its safety and stability.

There are over 200 languages spoken in London, and around 40% of the population is Black or Minority Ethnic (BAME). These numbers are predicted to grow further as the city expands and develops as an international centre.

Of the six largest world faiths, almost four million Christians and one million Muslims live in London, and Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism each have more than 80,000 followers in the capital.

London's population swells due to an influx of commuters during the day and tourists throughout the year - in greater volumes than anywhere else in the UK.

London is one of the safest global cities in the world already. Nevertheless, criminality within London is on a more prevalent and serious level than other cities and communities across England & Wales. Crime in the capital is often connected to organised criminality and national and international networks of offending. London has, throughout our lifetime, been a place that terrorists want to attack.

This creates a unique policing environment. Everyone joining us needs the ability to deliver outstanding policing to the communities of London.

# ABOUT THE MET

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## WE HAVE A HIGHLY AMBITIOUS TRANSFORMATION AGENDA

### Our transformation programme

Like many public bodies, we work with constrained resources, increasing demand and a changing environment that require us to make policing in London ever more effective. Recognising the challenges and the opportunities to improve our services, we are currently in the midst of one of the biggest transformation programmes of any public sector organisation.

Our Transformation Portfolio aims to deliver transformation right across our functions and departments, to modernise the force as a whole, and keep our resources focused on priority areas, providing an effective and efficient service to all Londoners.

In the past twelve months we have delivered:

- **A more visible neighbourhood presence**, with about 1,700 dedicated officers whose sole focus is to respond to the issues that matter to local communities (two police constables (PCs) as Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs), and one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) in all 629 London wards). These officers are tackling local priorities and anti-social behaviour, identifying people vulnerable to, or at risk of becoming involved in crime, and solving local issues.
- **A strengthened local police**. By regrouping a small number of boroughs to deliver core local policing functions (neighbourhoods, safeguarding, response and investigation) across borough boundaries, we can integrate and enhance our capability, and improve the safeguarding of vulnerable people with more officers dedicated to prevention. Management costs will reduce, which means we can maximise the availability of officers on the frontline. People, buildings, technology and fleet currently in one borough will be shared across a Basic Command Unit (BCU), making it easier to provide resources in line with each local area's peaks in demand. In addition, we have opened up access to a police career through direct entry superintendents, inspectors and detectives, attracting a diverse pool of applicants who may not have otherwise considered a career in policing.
- **Significant enhancements to our service**. Our new website offers relevant local information and prevention advice. It includes online crime reporting capability: 11 per cent of crimes are now reported online. A new Telephone and Digital Investigation Unit compliments this, reducing demand on our response teams, allowing them to focus their efforts more effectively. Body Worn Video (BWV) cameras were rolled out to over 22,000 officers, more than any other police service in the world. By being the first British police service to share footage digitally with the criminal justice service, we have improved security, reduced the demand on officer time and saved £3.5 million per year in operating costs. Complaints and investigations can become more evidence-based with supporting BWV material.
- **Smarter Working** bringing a significant range of savings and qualitative benefits, including improved morale, officer visibility and service effectiveness and efficiency. As a result of the rollout of 30,000 tablet and mobile devices, we have the ability over time to support our officers with better applications so they spend more time visibly assisting the public and less time in our buildings; we also expect to be able to better serve the public, with our officers having access to the right information at the time when they need it.

# ABOUT THE MET

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We have a clear roadmap that sets out our transformation plans to 2020. We have reviewed our processes and capabilities, our organisational, technological and digital strengths and weaknesses; and are constantly assessing future demand and current gaps to identify where change is necessary, where investments are required, and where benefits can be realised.

We need to make further savings, whilst continuing to improve our operational effectiveness and efficiency in the face of increasing overall demand, higher expectations from the public and the added complexity of a digital age.

Technology and estate transformation are some of the key enablers of that change, but organisational culture and learning, and good information management are also vital to make it a success.

## For London...

**A modern, transformed** and more **efficient Met** will **Protect London** by investing more of its time on the areas of greatest threat, risk and harm.

We will make **every community safer** through our new neighbourhood policing service and a stronger focus on safeguarding to protect the most vulnerable.

## For Our People...

We will provide **real time information** to keep them safe and manage risk and provide **professional support** so they can concentrate on their job.

We will deliver a **digital service** from contact to court to help meet demand, and trust in them to do their job well and have good professional judgement so their time is spent on activities that have the most impact.



# CORPORATE PRIORITIES

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**Our mission is to keep London safe for everyone**

**To achieve this, we will:**

## **Focus on what matters most to Londoners**

Violent crime tops the public's concerns and tackling it is our top priority. This includes terrorism, knife and gun crime, sexual offending, domestic abuse and safeguarding vulnerable people from predatory behaviour.

## **Mobilise partners and the public**

We know that safety requires action and intervention beyond the police service. We will work with partners and communities to help keep them safe and support them in preventing crime. We will work harder to earn the trust of more young people and ethnic minority communities.

## **Achieve the best outcomes in the pursuit of justice and in the support of victims**

We have a fundamental responsibility to uphold the rule of law and to ensure that victims receive the best possible outcome. We will do this by catching offenders and by ensuring victims of crime receive both justice and the support they need from us and our partners. As an organisation, we want to lead 21st century policing and:

## **Seize the opportunities of data and digital tech to become a world leader in policing**

We want to harness data and use advanced technologies to our advantage in the pursuit of criminals, rising to the challenge of a fast-moving data-driven digital age. We will make information and insight more accessible internally, and externally, to support evidence-based decisions and promote public confidence. We will strive to enhance our global reputation for excellence and expertise in policing

