

The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) is part of Counter Terrorism Policing and supports the Protect and Prepare strands of the HM Government's counter terrorism strategy (CONTEST). We are responsible for providing awareness, advice and guidance to UK Venues & Public Spaces to help them protect themselves from, and prepare themselves for, the possibility of terrorism.

Martyn's Law

The Home Office are leading on Martyn's Law and have provided a [Martyn's Law fact-sheet](#) with all the relevant information. This is the sole source of the truth and will be the place to get the most up to date information.

This document is aimed at supporting organisations by informing where to go to;

- Understand the threats and risks from terrorism
- Effectively assess risk at your site
- Identify vulnerabilities and plan to mitigate them
- Test and exercise for organisational learning and improvement
- Prepare effective counter terrorism plans that are robust and fit for purpose

1. ProtectUK

The inquiry following the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena on the 22nd May 2017 recommended that the Government produce a free, accessible library of counter terrorism information and advice. This is aimed to support organisations with clear definitive guidance to allow them to better protect and prepare themselves against terrorism. This portal is known as [ProtectUK](#).

There are a number of free training and awareness resources already available, that can be considered, adopted now and used to help better prepare you and your people to effectively respond in the unlikely event of a terrorist incident at your site.

2. Threat and Risk.

Terrorism threat assessments (JTAC) are reviewed regularly and are subject to change. Before you begin to develop your CT plans you must first understand what the threats and risks are that you are facing in order to understand how you might seek to mitigate them. Once this is understood you can begin to assess your site(s) and understand where your vulnerabilities lie through completion of a Counter Terrorism Risk Assessment. There are a number of areas within the [threat and risk](#) area of ProtectUK that will assist you in achieving this.

3. The Risk Management Process

It is important for larger sites to consider and assess the vulnerabilities to terrorist incidents that exist at their site and where possible implement protection measures that mitigate against those vulnerabilities. This will increase the protection and reduce the vulnerability of your site against acts of terrorism. To support you in conducting that assessment we have provided guidance at the links below:

If you need to carry out a Counter Terrorism Risk Assessment, ProtectUK provides a free and complete risk management process for use. Visit the [ProtectUK risk assessment](#) for step-by-step guidance to help you carry out these assessments and identify control measures you may consider adopting.

4. Response Procedures to reduce the impact of incidents.

It is important to establish effective incident response plans and procedures and socialise them across your site so that everyone knows what to do in the event of a terrorist incident. You should rehearse these plans to test and validate them with all staff and surrounding facilities to make sure they are effective. This will reduce the overall impact of any incident.

We have provided the following existing guidance:

Incident response plans.

Within the 'Venues and Public Spaces' guidance on the ProtectUK website there is additional guidance on [evacuation, invacuation, lockdown and protected spaces](#). This will help you understand how to keep people safe when an incident is taking place and how you might communicate it.

Within your planning ensure your organisations key security people understand how to work with the emergency services. All emergency services use the [Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles \(JESIP\)](#), a common language of processes that seek clear shared situational awareness and understanding of risk and threats when responding to crisis situations. Historically, this was just for the emergency services – but recent post incident learning has shown the organisation(s) at the site of an incident are absolutely key to its safe resolution.

Good crime prevention provisions can also support your protection from terrorism.

To help those in a position of responsibility, additional free guidance is available to help them consider and adopt measures that will keep your facilities safer from both crime and terrorism. Visit the [crime prevention toolkit](#) for further information.

Consider additional temporary measures in times of increased risk.

For periods where it may be prudent to have additional contingencies available in the event of increased risk, there is also the [Menu of Stakeholder Tactical Options](#).

5. Providing counter terrorism awareness for your staff.

Increase your awareness with e-Learning.

Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) and See Check and Notify (SCaN) are two free awareness products that aim to equip staff and volunteers with a level of counter terrorism understanding.

Visit [ACT e-Learning](#) - this module highlights best practice to help counter terrorism and increase security awareness,

Visit [SCaN for all](#) - this module is designed to increase awareness of hostile reconnaissance and suspicious behaviour and how to counter it.

Further ACT and SCaN products can be found on the ProtectUK and NPSA websites. In particular we would draw your attention to ACT Strategic – a product

aimed to consider an environment and the occupants within it and not simply an individual site. Also SCaN for Decision Makers'. This is an overarching product that explains the suite of SCaN products available so you can tailor the training to your sites individual needs (NB; A Counter Terrorism Security Advisor would be required to deliver these).

Support to help rehearse your plans when responding to an incident.

Rehearse and validate your plans to make sure they work and are effective. **'ACT in a Box'** is a free resource available to organisations to be able to rehearse and explore their response to an incident as a group in a safe-to-fail environment. These self-delivered exercises help to bring response plans to life by allowing those responsible to reflect on their own venue and work through how they would respond together to specific situations including dealing with a suspicious item or a marauding attack. Access our [interactive tools here](#).

Increase your vigilance and security minded profile.

To help foster a more inclusive security culture ProtectUK offers free vigilance and communication campaigns complete with toolkits for you to adapt and use. These will encourage people to stay alert, keep each other safe and help to promote a strong security culture across your site. They are a powerful way of using communications to enhance your approach to safety and security. Visit [vigilance and communication campaigns](#) for these assets.

There is a wealth of additional guidance to support your efforts that can be found across the ProtectUK and NPSA (www.npsa.gov.uk) websites.

We would encourage you to adopt the processes above now using the guidance available to better prepare your readiness for any future requirements.