

Aberdeen City Council Security Bulletin December 2017

As the year draws to a close, the final Security Bulletin of 2017, is short, but provides a reminder on how terrorism threat levels within the UK are determined, an update on the current threat levels and Run, Hide, Tell guidance for holidaymakers. I hope that you find this both informative and helpful.

Threat Levels

The threat level for the UK from international terrorism is set by the [Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre](#) (JTAC).

MI5 is responsible for setting the threat levels from Irish and other domestic terrorism both in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain.

In reaching a judgement on the appropriate threat level in any given circumstance several factors need to be taken into account.

These include:

- Available intelligence. It is rare that specific threat information is available and can be relied upon. More often, judgements about the threat will be based on a wide range of information, which is often fragmentary, including the level and nature of current terrorist activity, comparison with events in other countries and previous attacks. Intelligence is only ever likely to reveal part of the picture.
- Terrorist capability. An examination of what is known about the capabilities of the terrorists in question and the method they may use based on previous attacks or from intelligence. This would also analyse the potential scale of the attack.
- Terrorist intentions. Using intelligence and publicly available information to examine the overall aims of the terrorists and the ways they may achieve them including what sort of targets they would consider attacking.
- Timescale. The threat level expresses the likelihood of an attack in the near term. We know from past incidents that some attacks take years to plan, while others are put together more quickly. In the absence of specific intelligence, a judgement will need to be made about how close an attack might be to fruition. Threat levels do not have any set expiry date, but are regularly subject to review in order to ensure that they remain current.

What the threat levels mean

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack.

- **LOW** means an attack is unlikely.
- **MODERATE** means an attack is possible, but not likely
- **SUBSTANTIAL** means an attack is a strong possibility
- **SEVERE** means an attack is highly likely
- **CRITICAL** means an attack is expected imminently

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 current threat level for Northern Ireland-related terrorism in mainland Britain is **SUBSTANTIAL**.

Run, Hide, Tell for holidaymakers

Many of us take the opportunity at this time of year, to head overseas in search of warmer weather, or to visit our families who reside outside of the UK. Previous issues of the Security Bulletin have provide links to Run, Hide, Tell guidance and video clips. Counter Terrorism Policing UK have produced a further video, aimed at those who are travelling abroad and this can be viewed on their YouTube channel at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kzcldaLbYPA>

This film is four minutes long and outlines key actions to take if terrorists strike.

While there is no specific intelligence that holidaymakers will be targeted, the launch of the film and supporting information is part of a general campaign to raise awareness among the public. It highlights the steps people can take to minimise the impact of an attack – including knowing the local emergency services number.

The central message is Run, Hide, Tell, which was first launched by UK police in December 2015 after attacks in Paris. It was recently re-issued to the public by officers during London's Borough Market incident.

The original film to launch Run, Hide, Tell was based in an office block setting but the new travel-related videos show an event taking place in a hotel.

In June 2015, 30 British travellers were among 38 killed by terrorists at a resort in Tunisia. UK police were determined to work with the travel industry to do everything possible to learn from the tragedy.

Detective chief superintendent Scott Wilson, National Coordinator for Protect and Prepare, says:

- “The chances of being caught up in a terrorist incident are still low, but sadly we have seen atrocities take place in the UK and abroad. So it is important everyone - staff and customers - stays alert and knows what to do if the worst was to happen.”
- “Understandably people want to go on holiday to relax and enjoy themselves, but we need to remain vigilant at all times.”
- “We want people to think of this in the same way they do the safety film airlines show before take-off. They don't expect anything bad to happen but it is a sensible safety precaution to show people what to do.”
- “A few minutes of your time spent watching the video before you go on holiday could save you and your loved ones. And find out in advance the local emergency number. For EU countries it is 112. Other numbers can be found on the foreign and commonwealth Office website.”

Nikki White, Director of Destinations and Sustainability from ABTA adds:

- “We recognise the importance of raising awareness and providing clear guidance for our members and their employees. We know that customers would look to those staff working in their hotels and resorts to take the lead and respond quickly to an emerging situation.”
- “Representatives of the travel industry, taking part in the training, have responded positively.”
- “We will continue to work closely with the police to make sure we are doing all we can to help raise awareness of these messages.”

The key advice is:

Run – to a place of safety. This is better than trying to surrender or negotiate.

Hide – it is better to hide than confront. Barricade yourself in, turn your phone to silent and only when it is safe to do so...

Tell – the authorities by calling the emergency number – 112 for the EU. [For other numbers check here](#)

We of course hope that you will never need to put this advice into practice, but vigilance and preparedness may just make the difference if you ever find yourself in such a situation.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity, whether you are staying locally for the festivities or are venturing abroad, to wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Christmas and wish you all the best for the New Year.

Andy Campbell
Facilities Manager