

*Corps Relay is a regular bulletin designed to relay matters of high importance relating to Security, Crime, Terrorism and other related topics.*

## ***The Aftermath of the Westminster Attack – Fingers on the Button – Be Prepared***

Hello and welcome to the 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of Corps Relay – the newsletter designed to help you protect your people and property.

The brutal terror attack in Westminster on 22 March is further proof (if any were needed) that terrorism can rear its ugly head in the UK, with devastating effect. The Corps Relay Team takes this opportunity to express its condolences to the relatives and friends of PC Keith Palmer, and all the other innocent victims of this cruel attack. Our two special bulletins can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

In light of recent events we have focussed on preparation and training should a terrorist attack occur. Firstly, we summarise the National Stakeholder Menu of Tactical options, a document which outlines ways to enhance your security, before we explain how Corps Security has become a self-provider of Project Griffin training. We end with our usual summary on Armed Police activity.

### **National Stakeholder Menu of Tactical Options – A Summary**

Corps Relay was pleased to see that the National Counter Terrorism Security Office had released the National Stakeholder Menu of Tactical Options. Below is a summary of the document.

The National Stakeholder Menu of Tactical Options is a document that can be used by either the private sector or security industry that outlines ways in which they can enhance their security position in times of raised terrorism threat levels.

These options can be used in conjunction with the Police Service's 'National Menu of Counter Terrorism Tactical Options' or independently.

At the end of each issue of Corps Relay we include the current threat levels facing our country from international and Irish terror. Each level

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of threat has a different response needed from the security industry, and these are:

- **Critical** – Maximum protective security measures to meet specific threats and to minimise vulnerability and risk
- **Severe/Substantial** – Additional and substantial protective security measures reflecting the broad nature of the threat combined with specific business and geographical vulnerabilities and judgements on acceptable risk
- **Moderate** – Routine protective security measures appropriate to the business concerned

The overall business strategy in dealing with a change in threat level is to understand the type of threat posed and to consider the appropriate level of action that allows the business to continue running as usual.

The following principles should be central to any decisions:

- Prioritise areas to protect
- Measures should be proportionate to the threat
- Do not let security costs exceed the value of what you are protecting
- Security is more cost effective when incorporated into long-term planning
- Agree a strategy and document all decisions

### Menu of Tactical Options

If there is an increase in threat level, then the following list of tactical options should be considered by your business to help ensure security on your premises:

- Have a lock down procedure
- Increase security presence
- Brief staff to be more vigilant
- Work in partnership with local businesses
- Ensure you have a fully functioning CCTV system
- Establish parking checks
- Instate a robust visitor entry process
- Implement search regimes
- Consider cancelling or postponing large events
- Review staff absences
- Enforce a stricter delivery system

**REMEMBER ROBUST AND VIGILANT 'COMMUNITIES' PROVIDE A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT FOR TERRORISTS/CRIMINALS TO OPERATE IN**

The full National Stakeholder Menu of Tactical Options document can be found [here](#)

## Project Griffin Training

Corps Security is pleased to announce that it is now a self-deliverer of Project Griffin training. This initiative was formed back in 2004 and encourages members of the public to work in Partnership with the police to deter and detect terrorist activity and crime. Our Project Griffin Champion within Corps Security is Russell Southern, and we asked him a few questions to find out more.



### • **Can you give me some background to Project Griffin training?**

Project Griffin is the national counter terrorism awareness initiative for business produced by NaCTSO to protect cities and communities from the threat of terrorism.

The aim of Project Griffin is to:

- Help understand the threat from terrorism to the UK
- Guide individuals on what to do if they find themselves involved in a terrorist incident or event that leads to a planned attack
- Enable people to recognise and report suspicious activity

### • **What is your role within the training?**

Now that we can self-deliver my role is to act as the link between the Police and Corps Security to provide updates and reports on modules that are taught along with the number of personnel trained.

### • **How did we go about becoming a self-deliverer of the training? What was the process?**

I first heard that Project Griffin was available to be self-delivered from the Crime Prevention Association meetings that I attend monthly which are held by the City of London Police.

The reason the Police decided for this to be self-delivered was due to the number of people they wish to be trained. The average number of people the Police were training annually was around 100,000. By allowing self-delivery they hope this will reach 1 million trained annually.

Knowing the importance of the training and how good it would be to self-deliver I got in touch with the Police and arranged for a contract to be written up between Corps Security which would enable the company to self-deliver.

I had to speak to a number of people to arrange this between Corps Security and the Police as at first only limited companies were allowed to hold a contract. This has now been changed.

### • **How do you think this helps the officers who get trained?**

This benefits not only Corps Security staff but also allows us to deliver the training to the client and the tenants as well as, other service partners in the building.

We can provide updated training when needed and out of the 14 available teaching modules available, can pick and choose which ones are relevant to the individuals being taught.

This allows us to be very flexible with this training and carry out refreshers when necessary. Before we had to wait until sessions were available but now can deliver these as often as we like.

#### • **Why, do you think, is this training important?**

With the ever changing threat from terrorism it is essential for not only security but all members of the public to be aware of what to look for and how to report. The more people are aware the more protected we all are from terrorism.

### **Armed Policing in the UK – An Update**

In his last speech as commissioner of the Metropolitan police, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has said that armed police shouldn't be afraid to shoot their weapons. In his speech to the Royal United Services Institute, Hogan-Howe stressed the importance of trusting our armed officers and to treat them less suspiciously. He did also say that he was concerned with the way that officers who are involved in shooting accidents are treated, saying some shootings take too long to investigate.



**Armed Police in the UK**

“We can't afford to have officers think twice because they fear the consequences of shooting someone. That's how they get shot, or the public gets hurt, or a criminal gets away with a gun.”

There seems to be a similar thought throughout the Metropolitan Police regarding armed officers. Here at Corps Relay, we have been following a Metropolitan Police Federation's survey that indicates that nearly half of all Met police officers want more firearms specialists. This survey was answered by approximately a third of all Metropolitan police officers over the last three weeks of January, and another finding was that three quarters of all who answered believed that all officers should be issued with Tasers.

Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has been replaced as the commissioner of the Metropolitan police by Cressida Dick, the first female to be appointed to the role.



**Cressida Dick – The New Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police**

Future issues of *Corps Relay* will continue to provide updates on policing and security here in the UK. In the meantime the international terror threat level in the UK remains at severe, meaning an attack is "highly likely".

**The current threat level** from international terrorism for the UK was raised on 29 August 2014 and is now assessed as **SEVERE**

The threat level for Irish related terrorism is set separately for Northern Ireland and Great Britain

In Northern Ireland it is **SEVERE** and in Great Britain it is **SUBSTANTIAL**

**NOTE:**

- **CRITICAL** means that a terrorist attack is imminent
- **SEVERE** means that a terrorist attack is highly likely
- **SUBSTANTIAL** that an attack is a strong possibility
- **MODERATE** that an attack is possible but unlikely

*Everyone should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321.*

**REPORT IT!**

*You may end up saving a life or lives... and there is nothing more rewarding than that...*

For further information, or for back copies of *Corps Relay*, feel free to contact our team direct on 07773 320234 or via e-mail at [mbluestone@corpssecurity.co.uk](mailto:mbluestone@corpssecurity.co.uk) or [ebrooksbank@corpssecurity.co.uk](mailto:ebrooksbank@corpssecurity.co.uk)

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