



PREVENT, SURVEIL AND PROTECT:

The fight against
terrorism in the UK

FOREWORD



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The world is a constantly changing place and terrorism reflects this evolution. Whether physical or virtual staying ahead of and dealing with the terrorists and their organisations is critical for the physical, mental and economic security of those people who may be the unfortunate victims of attacks, whether directly or indirectly. In an international context the legal parameters are complex and changing; terrorists do not recognise and often take advantage of, national boundaries, giving national legal systems further challenges.

Ensuring that the innocent are protected, the guilty convicted and that rights are respected is paramount. *Prevent, surveil and protect* is a short publication which captures various views and developments on this significant and fascinating field. Borne from a highly successful event, where experts and researchers from across the world came together with communities and young people it provides a range of information and perspectives. There are various ways to interpret legislation and to apply policies. Policing, surveillance and preventative actions need to be balanced with civil liberties. Communications with the Public needs to be clear, implementable and free of causing undue alarm. Behind these are all underpinning principles.

We hope that this provides therefore some interesting information and insight to the current debates in the field and of course entices further involvement and contribution into this quickly evolving, high-impact topic. Engagement with this field is both welcome and invited, it's far too important to leave to others.

FOREWORD



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More than two decades on from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and more than fifty years since the start of the Troubles in Northern Ireland, terrorism continues to pose a threat to the UK, and the laws and policies that counter it have expanded considerably over the same period. The question remains: how can states prevent terrorism and protect individuals without making significant inroads into traditionally held rights and liberties.

In March 2023, the University of Sunderland held an important and timely two-day event on the topic of Prevent, Surveil and Protect: The Fight against Terrorism. The first day of the event constituted an online symposium, which drew together international and interdisciplinary experts from academia, policy, and practice, to discuss the relevant issues. Attendees heard experts from the Northeast Counter-Terrorism Unit and the Crown Prosecution Service discuss the practical challenges of investigating and prosecuting terrorism, and listened to cutting edge research from academics from the United Kingdom, United States, and Czech Republic on counter-terrorism practice and policy, responsibility and policy, and international perspectives on counter-terrorism. The second day of the event saw students from local schools produce colourful and informative posters on the symposium's main themes.

This e-booklet brings together the two days of the event into one publication to raise awareness of the UK's counter-terrorism laws and policies. In the pages below, you can find information on key counter-terrorism laws, the overarching counter-terrorism policy 'CONTEST', the four strands of that policy: 'Prevent', 'Pursue', 'Protect' and 'Prepare', and the role of policing and surveillance in counter-terrorism, as well as information on what the public can do if they are concerned about terrorism. These are all aptly illustrated by the posters produced by students in Sunderland's local schools.

Initiatives such as these can help enhance our understanding of terrorism and the laws and policies that counter it.

What is Terrorism?

The **Terrorism Act 2000** defines terrorism, both in and outside the UK, as the use or threat of one or more of the actions listed below and where they are designed to influence the government or an international governmental organisation or intimidate the public.

The use or threat must also be for the purpose of advancing a political, religious, racial or ideological cause. The specific actions included are:



serious violence
against a person



serious damage
to property



endangering a person's
life (other than that of
the person committing
the action)

Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015:

- gives the police new powers to disrupt people travelling abroad to fight for a terrorist organisation, and manage their return to the UK;
- strengthens law enforcement agencies' ability to monitor and control the actions of those in the UK who pose a terrorist threat; and
- enhance the Government's ability to combat the underlying ideology that feeds, supports and sanctions terrorism.

CONTEST and Counter-terrorism policy

CONTEST is the United Kingdom's counter-terrorism strategy, first developed in 2003 as the immediate response to 9/11, and most recently revised in June 2018. CONTEST is made up of 4 strands

PREVENT

Preventing Vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism. The government-led, multi-agency Prevent programme aims to stop individuals from becoming terrorists and police play a key role. Working with local authority partners and community organisations to help find solutions and work to support and protect vulnerable people. Following assessment, many referrals to Prevent do not result in any further police action. In some cases, other organisations such as health, forensic mental health, housing or education step in to provide support.

PURSUE

Pursue terrorists and work to bring them to justice. The Police work closely with MI5 and others to develop intelligence, and with the Crown Prosecution Service to put compelling evidence before the courts. Whether investigating a highly sophisticated international plot, or a lone individual preparing an attack, our teams of professionals are ready to deploy a wide range of skills. This includes utilising surveillance, forensics, and digital and financial investigations expertise.



PROTECT

Protect the public and places from terrorist attacks. The purpose of Protect is to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack in the UK or against our interests overseas and so reduce our vulnerability. Significant progress has been made with our Protect related work in the past few years, notably in securing the Critical National Infrastructure, in assessing and managing down the risks to crowded places, and in safeguarding hazardous materials which may be used by terrorists in an attack.

PREPARE

Prepare to respond to attacks and reduce their impact. If the worst happens, the Government want to respond as quickly and efficiently as possible. To help them prepare for attacks, they regularly test their methods by holding exercises. In partnership with other emergency services, local and national government departments and the military. This helps us understand the way each organisation works so we can come together for a major incident and act as one.

POLICY

Whilst counter-terrorism remains a national priority for Government, reforms in other parts of the public sector, and in particular the devolution of power and responsibility from central Government Departments, will shape how some aspects of CONTEST will be delivered in the future. Whereas policy coordination and implementation of the strategy would have taken place through a limited number of Government Offices, Strategic Health Authorities (in England) and regional offender management bodies, the abolition of regional tiers of government will mean that this now takes place at a more local level.

POLICY

"Provides for a new offence of entering or remaining in an area outside the United Kingdom that has been designated in regulations made by the Secretary of State in order to protect the public from a risk of terrorism."

- Shamima Begum case
- Government doesn't have right to restrict citizenship
- Ignoring problem
- Counter is in place for this reason

"Increases to 10 years imprisonment the maximum penalty for failing to disclose information about acts of terrorism."

- At what point does this breach privacy?
- An act of terrorism may be just research about how to make a bomb.
- Too vague
- 10 years imprisonment for something that has nothing to do with the cause.

COUNTER

PREVENT

- Support group
- Tailored help
- Multitude of organisations
- Spread of info
- Realtime help and training
- Well funded initiative.
- Destroys root of problem



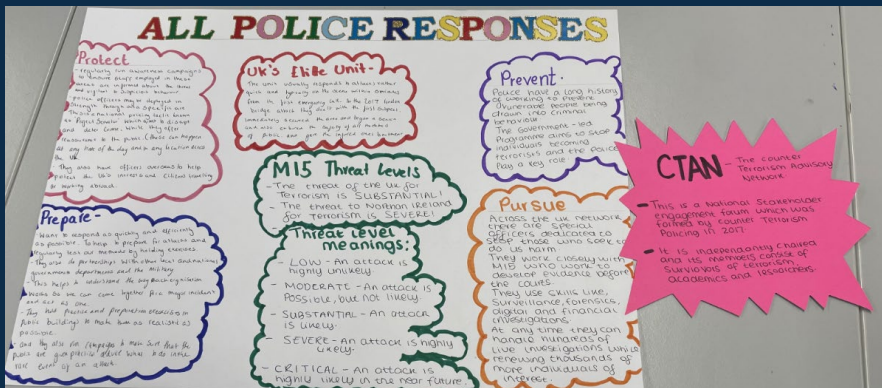
PURSUE

- Surveillance
- Pursuit - in person and online
- Web profiling (digital footprint)
- Safety / Data privacy



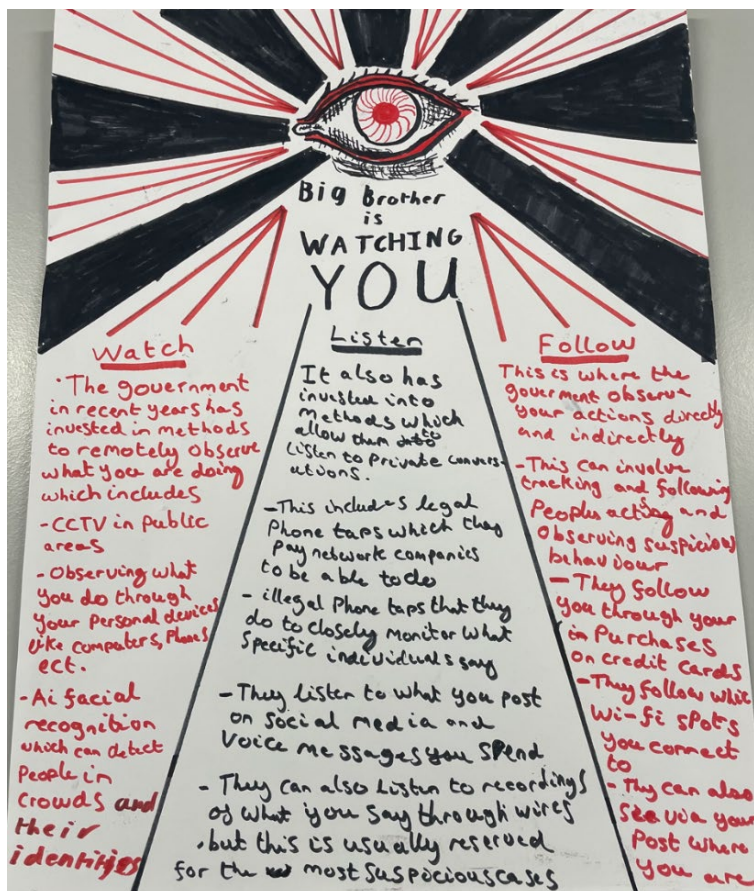
PROTECT

Counter-terrorism policing is a collaboration of UK police forces working with the UK intelligence community to help protect the public and our national security by preventing, deterring and investigating terrorist activity.



SURVEILLANCE

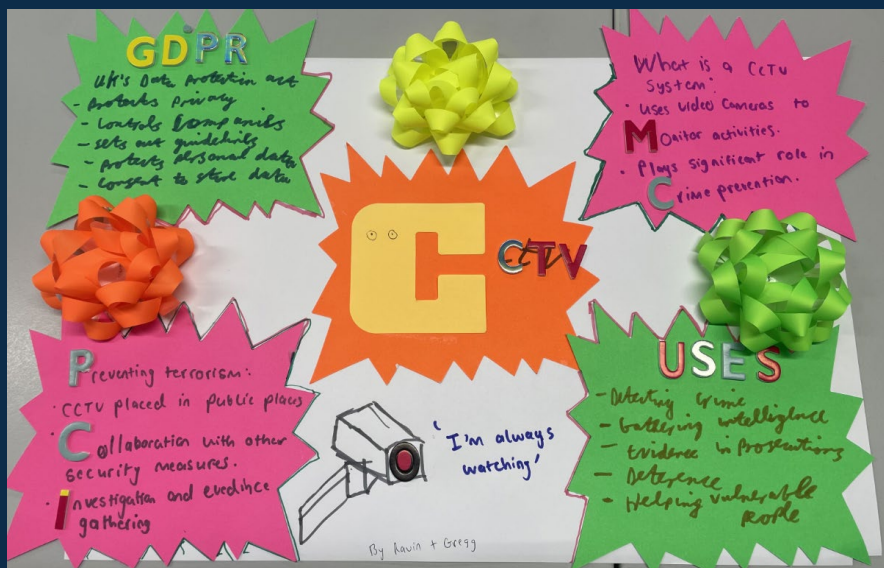
The highly complex forms of terrorism require States to take effective measures to defend themselves, including mass monitoring of communications. Unlike “targeted” surveillance (covert collection of conversations, telecommunications and metadata by technical means – “bugging”), “strategic” surveillance (or mass surveillance) does not necessarily start with a suspicion against a particular person or persons. It has a proactive element, aimed at identifying a danger rather than investigating a known threat. Herein lay both the value it can have for security operations, and the risks it can pose for individual rights.



The use of recording equipment, such as CCTV or smart door bells, to capture video or sound recordings outside the user's property boundary is not a breach of data protection law.

People should try to point their CCTV cameras away from their neighbours' homes and gardens, shared spaces or public streets. But this is not always possible.

When people capture images and audio recordings outside of their property boundary, they should consider how intrusive this activity is. They should consider whether they can point their cameras elsewhere or, if possible apply filters or privacy blocks. In these circumstances, data protection law also requires them to follow certain rules – although these are difficult to enforce.



PREVENT

STAY
ALERT!

STAY
SAFE!

Preventing **TERRORISM** Starts With **YOU**

Report Don't Ignore

If you see something,
Say something

- Isolation
- Scripted talking
- suddenly disrespectful
- anger
- People using Recording Equipment
- Slow vehicles
- Unusual questions

Know the Signs

Recognise Suspicious
Behaviour

Foster Strong Communities

Parents
Heart of Community
Work
Teachers

Secure your Surroundings

- Be vigilant in Large Groups
- Check for Emergency Exits
- Don't leave belongings Unattended

Stay Informed

Metropolitan Police
Website

PREVENT

Challenging extremist ideologies

a preventive measure by the
Government

- Pursue** : to stop terrorist attacks
- Protect** : to strengthen our physical infra-structure against a terrorist attack
- Prepare** : to mitigate the impact of a terrorist

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Communities defeat terrorism. We need the help and support of individuals, businesses and communities across the UK to remain alert and maintain the safety and security of those places where we live, work and socialise.

If you see or hear something unusual or suspicious, trust your instincts and ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) by reporting possible terrorist activity in confidence. Any piece of information could be important, so it's better to be safe and report anything you see. You can help the police prevent terrorism and save lives.

Crowded places, events, public transport, and iconic locations throughout the country are some examples of locations that could be potential targets for terrorists.

Preventative Measures

How Can I prevent a terrorist attack?

Be extra vigilant in places with large numbers. e.g. Metro & train stations, festivals, concerts and shopping centres

Check the location of emergency exits in every building you enter!

Don't leave your belongings unattended.

Prevent.
They prevent vulnerable people from being drawn into extremism.
grass roots and help and target **ANYONE** regardless of background, race, origin, ethnicity.
They work with local authority partners and community organisations to help find solutions, support and protect vulnerable people 🚨

How can you report a suspicious situation?
In the event of an emergency call 112 or 999.
or report suspicious activities or terrorist activities by calling 0800 284 384.

Whether or not a situation is suspicious depends very much on context: e.g. an unattended suitcase on a train platform does not necessarily mean anything sinister. However the safest thing to do is to report it.
It's Better safe than sorry!

**P
R
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V
E
N
T**

You're familiar with your workplace and surrounding area, so you're ideally placed to spot when something is amiss. In this period of heightened alert, it is vital to remain vigilant, trust your instincts and report possible terrorist activity to the police.

Look for anything that seems out of the ordinary, such as:

- people in stationary vehicles watching a building or structure
- vehicles moving slowly near public buildings, structures or bridges, or parked in suspicious circumstances
- people using recording equipment, including camera phones, or seen making notes or sketches of security details
- someone suspicious paying close attention to specific entry and exit points, stairwells, hallways or fire escapes
- people loitering at or near premises for long periods and watching staff, visitors and deliveries for no apparent reason
- people asking detailed or unusual questions about buildings and business operations, facilities (such as room layouts), security or parking for no apparent reason
- anyone in 'off limits' areas, plant rooms and similar – ask these people who they are and what they're doing, and report this immediately to your security manager or call 999. If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service 18000 or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the [emergency SMS service](#).

If you've witnessed any of the above, trust your instincts and report it, in confidence, using our [online tool to report possible terrorist activity](#) or call the anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321. Our specially trained officers will take it from there.

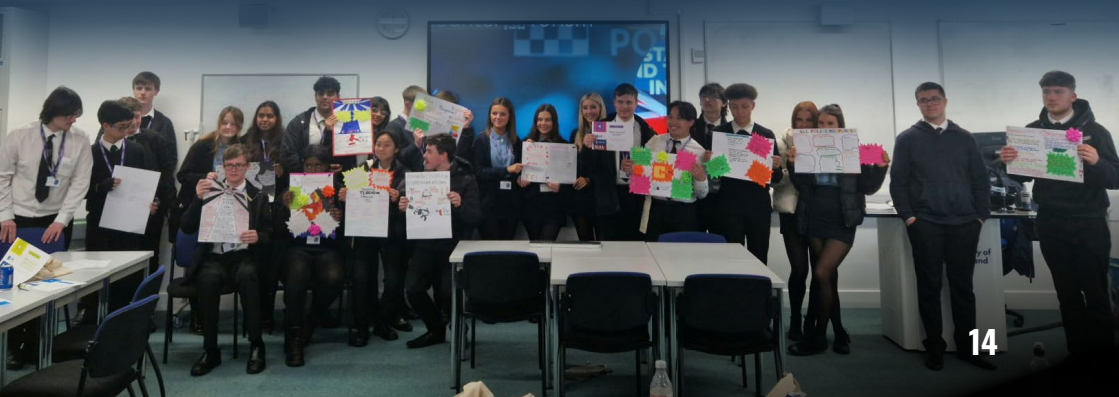
 RUN	RUN - to a place of safety. This is a better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there's nowhere to go, then...
 HIDE	HIDE - Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can.
 TELL	TELL - the police by calling 999 when it is safe to do so.
 COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING	ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM

FURTHER RESOURCES

- www.counterterrorism.police.uk
- www.gov.uk
- www.protectuk.police.uk
- act.campaign.gov.uk

THANK YOU

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