



Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Community Engagement following recent terrorist incidents

Partnership briefing

Cambridgeshire Constabulary recognises that following the recent terrorist incidents in London and Glasgow, communities may feel vulnerable.

There is a heightened need for the police *and* our partners to engage with communities because the issues they face are a general fear that there will be further attacks and certain groups will be singled out for blame and retaliation. There may well be an increase in attacks, verbal abuse and damage against people from certain racial and faith groups.

People's fears and feelings from all communities are important and need to be reported as well as any specific attacks. Vulnerable groups may need additional support and reassurance.

The Constabulary's strategic intention is to work in partnership with other agencies to:

- Protect the public;
- Inform the public to ensure that they are alert and aware;
- Maintain public confidence in the policing response including all minority communities;
- Provide reassurance to the public through preventative and proactive policing;
- Engage with all partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach to any incident is maintained.

Other important objectives following on from this strategy are:

- Collect and preserve any intelligence or evidence available about potential criminal terrorist acts.
- Preventing and deterring any criminal terrorist attack.

Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2002

The Constabulary has stepped up security in Cambridgeshire in the wake of the terrorist incidents. Deputy Chief Constable John Feavour has invoked powers under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act which allow officers to stop and search anyone if they have concerns or suspicion.

DCC Feavour said: "We've introduced this power to ensure we have the appropriate ability to help protect and reassure people in Cambridgeshire. There is no specific evidence of a threat here, however we are increasing patrols and visibility and there are occasions where these powers will be necessary. We will of course ensure that we operate with sensitivity. I'm confident that all the communities we serve will understand the need for this measure and will support our work to protect the public."

Armed officers will be more in evidence at key locations around the county and traffic officers are likely to use the power to stop drivers or pedestrians and search them and their vehicles. Officers acting under Section 44 are given broad discretion to search "for articles which could be used in connection with terrorism".

Section 44 powers mean that we will be able to act if or when we have any suspicion or concern. Our top priority is to protect the public. Above all we need people in Cambridgeshire to remain alert and aware. If people have any immediate concern or urgent information they can ring 999. Otherwise contact the **Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**"

Key messages

- Our top priority is to protect the public.
- A major counter terrorism investigation is underway following both attacks. Both devices had the potential to cause mass damage to property, but also significant fatalities.
- There is **no** information that suggests that any part of the UK is a specific target but another attack is believed to be imminent. This policing activity is being undertaken to ensure that the public at large are kept safe. **This is our utmost priority.**
- All forces across the country will be increasing their police patrols in areas which may be vulnerable. These include areas where large numbers of people may gather and licensed premises.
- Police officers will be visiting such areas and premises in your area throughout the weekend to ensure they are kept safe.
- Terrorism affects all our communities and their safety is our highest priority. We will do our utmost to help people recognise the signs of suspicious and to assist us in defeating terrorism.
- Armed officers will be patrolling at significant points: e.g. transport hubs.
- The police will continue to work with our partners and communities at local, county, regional and national level to prevent terrorism.
- We need our communities to help defeat terrorism. We need all our communities to be vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour to the **Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**