



21st July 2016

Recent International events and its effect on Event risk assessment processes

Dear SAG members / event organisers

In light of recent low sophistication attacks across Europe I thought it timely to update you on the impact of these incidents on event planning processes. In particular I want to mention recent guidance we have received about the use of protective security measures to protect against hostile vehicles, particularly momentum vehicle attack, at a crowded place event such as a festival or ceremony and what you, as a SAG and / or event organiser, should be considering over and above the NaCTSO guidance already available in the public domain. That guidance was forwarded to all SAGs post Paris 2016 and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/crowded-places>

Our Police Events Planning Officers are made aware of many events taking place across the Force and these are assessed as low, medium or high risk. Some of these events require the assessment of a Public Order Commander, a Police Search Advisor and or a Security Coordinator amongst other professionals. Where the Threat and Risk is sufficiently high we of course have access to a range of measures to mitigate the threat.

This year we have needed to enhance the way we assess these events due to the threat of a terrorist act in particular at crowded places. Post Nice we are giving further consideration to the use of a vehicle as a momentum weapon. This isn't something new, but Nice has raised the profile. Despite all of these considerations, risk assessments and planning the National Threat level from International Terrorism and Northern Ireland related terrorism remains Severe. This has not increased further since the recent attacks of Paris, Brussels, Orlando or Nice but is only one level below its highest, Critical. The intention of this briefing is to ensure you all remain alert but not alarmed.

So, what are we asking of you? As a SAG or as an event organiser, we would ask that you make yourself aware of the NaCTSO guidance and also now give consideration to the recent MO of a vehicle being used as a momentum weapon. We ask that you consider *proportionate* methods to prevent or frustrate an attack.

As event organisers, please can you consider what you could do to prevent a lorry being driven into the crowds on a highway or adjacent to a highway? How can the layout be set up to make that difficult? What natural and artificial blockers can be placed to prevent a lorry gaining access to these event areas? There are few ways of completely mitigating against this risk and where appropriate, based on threat and risk, we will utilise other assets. However, please give consideration to the following:

- Use of vehicles positioned in such a way as to create a 'soft road closure' may act as a deterrent to a would be attacker. Although this may not stop a vehicle it may slow or delay the vehicles approach to the target
- Use of pedestrian barriers or Herras fencing will not stop an HGV but again, may act as a deterrent and slowing mechanism. If this is all that is available, then it should be used.
- Positioning of machinery or street furniture such as large generators, skips, cherry pickers and forklifts at temporary events, will offer some protection and slow down considerably a hostile vehicle.
- Placement of large Tonne bags of Sand in such a manner to prevent a direct route to Target. This would still allow Emergency vehicle access
- Positioning of Marshalls who can give early reports via radio of vehicles giving concern or proceeding through road closures

These are three of scenarios which were given consideration for a recent event in this Force area.

1. A lorry approaches the site, ignores orders to stop, drives through fencing and on towards the Targeted event
2. A lorry poses as a trader and gains access, and later drives towards the targeted event
3. A lorry gains access as a legitimate trader, but later drives towards the targeted event

Our Armed Response Vehicles are now aware of all events known to Police and consider these events in their patrol plans.

In addition to the above, please ensure you are aware of the following guidance in relation to Dynamic Lockdown; [NaCTSO Developing Dynamic Lockdown procedures](#)

If you require further advice or guidance then please contact a member of the Police Events Planning team who will either answer your concerns to signpost you to the relevant officer or department.

Kind regards

M.Ruston

Mark

Sergeant Mark Ruston MEPS

Ops, Events and Contingency Planning Sergeant

PolSA and Force 'Prepare' lead

Police Headquarters, Middlemoor, Exeter, EX2 7HQ