

# SERCO SKILLS & TRAINING SERVICES

## SAFEGUARDING & PREVENT

### NEWSLETTER



February 2024

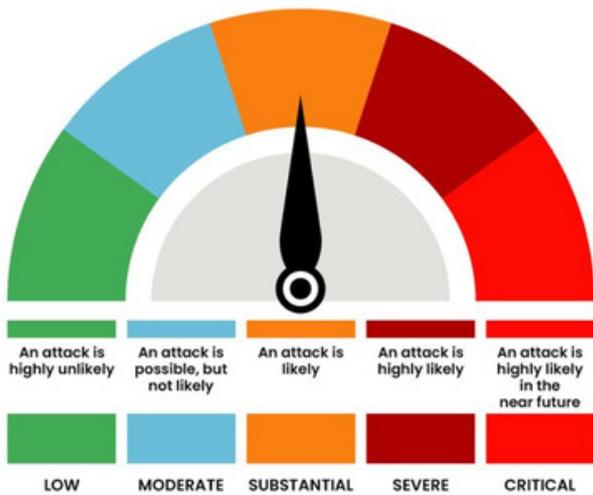
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 [safeguarding\\_team](#)



0121 345 6455

available between 08:30 and 16:30 with option to leave a voice message. In case of immediate danger call 999. For Samaritans call 116 123



**Are you aware of the Terrorism Threat Levels?** They indicate the likelihood of a terrorist attack in the UK and are set by MI5. They do not have an expiry date and can change at any time. From the diagram to the left, you'll see that there are five levels of threat and, at this time, the threat to the UK is substantial (an attack is likely). The [following MI5 page](#) explains how they decide on the level and the level history over the past few years.

**How should you respond?** The threat levels themselves do not require a specific response from the public but are more a tool for security practitioners and the police in determining what security responses may be required.

What you CAN do is be vigilant at all times. You can call 999 or the police anti-terrorist hotline on 0800 789 321 to report immediate threat to life or property and report any threats to national security - such as terrorism to MI5 on 0800 111 4645.

**Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations.** What is a proscribed organisation?

Under the Terrorism Act 2000, the Home Secretary may proscribe an organisation if they believe it is concerned in terrorism, and it is proportionate to do. For the purposes of the act, this means that the organisation:

- commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- prepares for terrorism
- promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism)
- is otherwise concerned in terrorism

**What is meant by 'terrorism' in the proscription context?**

"Terrorism" as defined in the act, means the use or threat of action which: involves serious violence against a person; involves serious damage to property; endangers a person's life (other than that of the person committing the act); creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or section of the public or is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system. Find out more via the link below.

[Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations](#)

The organisation **Hizb ut-Tahrir** has been proscribed as a terrorist organisation. They are an international pan-Islamist Islamic fundamentalist organisation whose stated aim is the re-establishment of the Islamic caliphate to unite the Muslim community. Home Secretary James Cleverly said the group was "antisemitic" and "actively promotes and encourages terrorism". The ban under UK terrorism laws comes after followers were accused of chanting "jihad" at a pro-Gaza rally. This order makes belonging to Hizb ut-Tahrir or inviting support for the group a criminal offence, with a potential prison sentence of 14 years which can be handed down alongside or in place of a fine.

Hizb ut-Tahrir has now been added to the list of proscribed organisations in the UK, alongside 79 other organisations (list of which can be found [here](#)).

## CONTEST, CHANNEL AND PREVENT

CONTEST is the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy.

*"The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence."*



**Prevent:** stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.



**Pursue:** stop terrorist attacks happening in this country or against UK interests overseas.



**Protect:** strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.



**Prepare:** minimise the impact of an attack and reduce the likelihood of further attacks.

The terrorist threat in the UK today is dominated by individuals or small groups acting outside of organised terrorist networks. The UK's response to this is that of agility (in the face of an evolving threat), integration (bringing the right interventions to bear at the right time to reduce risk) and alignment (with international allies to ensure that we continue to deliver together against a common threat).

Delivery of CONTEST is a cross government effort, including a broad range of central government departments, the intelligence services, police, military, emergency services, local government, devolved administrations, international partners and the private sector



Realise the full potential of the UK's world-leading Counter-Terrorism Operations Centre.



Further strengthen the UK border as a critical line of defence against terrorism.



Ensure that counter-terrorism investigations draw on an increased range of expert advice and interventions.



Continue to invest in the identification of future threats and opportunities that derive from technology.



Transform our counter-terrorism communications effort.



Build on our engagement with the tech sector, participating in the co-ordinated, international effort to suppress terrorist exploitation of the internet.



Maintain investment in critical threat assessment capabilities.



Maintain crucial and proportionate access to the data we need to investigate and disrupt terrorist activity.



Deepen our international counter-terrorism partnerships.

PREVENT, PURSUE, PROTECT AND PREPARE shows how the Government is responding but how do they transform Contest and build on lessons learned?



Learning from incidents, exercises and external scrutiny remains at the heart of their work. They will learn the lessons from the Manchester Arena Inquiry and are implementing all the recommendations from the Independent Review of Prevent.

**The Channel Programme** - a confidential, voluntary multi-agency safeguarding programme that supports people who are vulnerable to radicalisation.

It is run in every local authority in England and Wales and addresses all types of extremism. It is about early intervention to protect vulnerable children and adults who might be susceptible to being radicalised, which, if left unsupported, could lead to involvement in terrorist-related activity.

Anyone can make a referral if they are concerned about someone being radicalised. Referrals from the general public can be made to the local authority or the local police.

If suitable, the referral is discussed with all relevant partners at a meeting called a Channel panel to decide if an intervention is necessary. The individual who has been referred to Prevent is informed and must give their consent (or via a parent or guardian if they are children) before an intervention can take place.

**The purpose of Prevent: "Safeguarding people vulnerable to radicalisation and extremism"**

## This month's newsletter focuses on fraud

**Fraud comes in all shapes and forms.** New scams are constantly emerging as fraudsters exploit different methods and media channels to get people to part with money, financial data or personal information. Anyone can be targeted, and anyone can become a victim.

**In just one year, 1 in 17 adults were victims of fraud!**

Here are some common types of fraud to be aware of:

- Banking Fraud
- Advance Fee Fraud
- Dating Fraud
- On-line shopping fraud

Many of us spend huge amounts of time on-line and often prefer shopping from the comfort of our armchair these days and whilst the internet makes our lives easier, it is prime hunting ground for criminals who want to steal our money and identity. There are practical steps you can take to make it harder for them to defraud you on-line such as:

- **improving your password security** (good practice is to choose three random objects and have a mixture of upper and lower case letters)
- **turn on 2 step verification**
- **use anti-virus software** (and keep it up to date!)
- **enable security features** on your mobile phone and or pad (face recognition, fingerprint or passcode)
- **stay safe on social media** by checking your security settings and being careful about what you share online! Ever seen those threads your friends share where you're prompted to answer ten or so questions about your 'favourite pet, first school, mother's maiden name' ? Many of these are common security questions you may set yourself and you're potentially feeding fraudsters the answers by responding to what seems to be a fun game!

Click the blue icon below for more prevention information.

**Ever heard of Social Engineering?** It's a tactic(s) that fraudsters use to get you to act fast without you having time to stop and think. Fraudsters know exactly what buttons to press to get what they want and they will use many tactics such as:

- **an authority or trusted voice** - seemingly from an official office, bank, doctor, energy supplier etc
- **false urgency** - limited time to respond and face penalties if you don't action straight away
- **emotion** - use language that makes you feel fearful or hopeful
- **scarcity** - offered something that is in short supply such as concert/show tickets, holiday deals
- **current events** - donation for a current disaster appeal for example (criminals often exploit current news stories)
- **building relationships** - fraudsters often try to earn your trust by building rapport and finding shared interests before they ask you for money or personal information

Fraudsters want to steal your hard-earned money and will find a way for you to hand over cash, financial information or security details. If you EVER receive one of these requests, it should be a warning sign. Always take time to stop, think and check if it's real. Be wary if anyone:

- asks you to share a one-time-passcode
- asks for your PIN or password in full
- asks for payment before sending a prize or lost delivery
- asks for a direct transfer of cash or cryptocurrency
- asks you to move away from an official payment site to make a direct payment
- asks for money before you've met in person
- asks you to click on suspicious links

You can sign up for free to **Action Fraud Alert** to receive direct, verified, accurate information about scams and fraud in your area by email, recorded voice and text message. Link top sign up [here](#). Alternatively follow Action Fraud on their social channels (Facebook, X and Instagram)

You can also report and get advice about fraud or cyber crime by calling 0300 123 2040. Click on the below icon to access the .Gov Stop! Think Fraud site for more information on how to; spot fraud, report fraud, protect yourself from fraud and recover from fraud

**Protecting against online fraud**

**STOP!  
THINK FRAUD**

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCE, TIPS AND ADVICE

**Educate against Hate: Embedding British Values and Prevent in to lessons:** Educate Against Hate have launched their new and improved 23/24 calendar. The calendar looks at the year ahead and highlights key awareness days and months, important anniversaries, and other information around extremism and radicalisation. Each date has a list of relevant resources, tools and practical advice to support you in building resilience to extremism. The calendar is available as a webpage, a printable PDF and as an iCalendar so you can add the dates to your own diary. Click on the calendar for the link.



**Prevent Videos:** new short animations that can be embedded in training, communications and any other scenario where you need to quickly explain the purpose of Prevent to an audience. One is designed for anyone with a Prevent duty, the other is specific to education settings.

Public Sector Staff: Prevent duty animation - public sector staff working together to stop radicalisation



Education's Role: The Prevent duty: the role of education in safeguarding learners from radicalisation



**Resources to support discussion about Israel-Hamas conflict:** The [February newsletter of Educate Against Hate](#) contains some really useful resources to support discussions about the Israel-Hamas conflict.

The resources include:

- A blog providing guidance on engaging with learners about what they see in the news
- Resources from Parallel Histories covering the history of the conflict
- Resources from Solutions Not Sides with teacher guides to support confidence in discussing these topics with students.

**Martyn's Law consultation:** New laws to make sure we are better prepared for, and protected from, terrorist attacks continue to be consulted on.

Martyn's Law will require premises to fulfil necessary but proportionate steps, according to their capacity, to help keep the public safe. It is named in tribute to Martyn Hett who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena attack in 2017. The consultation on the updated approach to Standard Tier, launched will seek views to make sure the new requirements do not place undue burdens on smaller businesses, while still protecting the public. The consultation is available here: [Martyn's Law: standard tier consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

As always, our safeguarding team is here to help, advise and guide so do reach out if you are struggling or wish to report something.