ProtectUK

Cinema business leaders unite to champion terrorism preparedness

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Leaders from across the cinema sector gathered on 3 July 2025 for a high-profile industry event aimed at raising awareness about the critical importance of terrorism preparedness for cinema businesses.

Risk and safeguarding

The event was hosted by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office's (NaCTSO) Business Engagement Unit in partnership with the UK Cinema Association. It highlighted the risks faced by cinemas and outlined practical steps to safeguard audiences and staff.

Speakers emphasised that cinemas could be attractive targets for terrorism and other security threats, and shared real-world examples of how security incidents can lead to devastating losses not only in lives and property but also in customer trust and revenue.



Attendees at the cinema event

Key points at the event

Key takeaways from the event included:

Risk assessment and planning: Conducting thorough risk assessments and developing tailored security strategies to address vulnerabilities. The ProtectUK risk management process was presented as a method to help to protect and prepare. Read more about the Risk Management Process | **ProtectUK**.

Staff training and exercising: Providing emergency response training to all staff, including regular testing and simulation. Examples include the ACT Awareness e-Learning and the online exercise at ACT in a BOX Exercises | ProtectUK.

Collaboration with business partners: Building strong partnerships with local business to support a coordinated response to incidents and information sharing. Read more at About | ProtectUK.

Organisational Awareness: Encouraging a culture of safety, where audiences are empowered to report suspicious activities and support a secure environment. Find out more about [Action Counters Terrorism (ACT): Report suspicious activity | ProtectUK].



Commitment to preparedness

Attendees left the event with a renewed commitment to making preparedness a top priority.

“It was really useful and productive to get all the safety and security leads from across the UK’ s national cinema chains together to hear updates from NaCTSO Business Engagement Unit, regarding a range of Counter Terrorism policing measures and potential challenges facing our sector, as well as further detail regarding the upcoming Martyn’s Law” said James Connor, Senior Policy & Projects Manager, UK Cinema Association.

With the Protection of Premises Bill receiving Royal Assent in April 2025 the event underscored that terrorism preparedness is not just a regulatory box to tick.

“It’s a fundamental aspect of responsible cinema management and a key driver of audience confidence and industry growth” said James Connor.



Attendees discuss security and preparedness

KEYWORDS

BUSINESS
RISK MANAGEMENT
ACT AWARENESS
COUNTER TERRORISM
PROTECT
PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING
ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM
AWARENESS
EVENT MANAGEMENT
EVENT SECURITY

REGION

EAST MIDLANDS
EASTERN
LONDON
NORTH EAST
NORTH WEST
NORTHERN IRELAND
SCOTLAND
SOUTH EAST
SOUTH WEST
WALES
WEST MIDLANDS

SECTOR

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
ENTERTAINMENT
EVENTS
HOSPITALITY
SECURITY

ORGANISATION SIZE

LARGE (250+)

PAGE CATEGORY

NEWS