

ACT for Local Authorities



Planning & Development



ACT

ACTION
COUNTERS
TERRORISM

LOCAL AUTHORITIES



NATIONAL
COUNTER TERRORISM
SECURITY OFFICE

Introduction

Ensuring that security is considered in the planning process for venues and public spaces is crucial to the safety of occupants and visitors.

Early engagement with Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) Protect & Prepare can help to identify and mitigate potential risks and vulnerabilities. This allows for the design of built environments that deter threats, facilitate quick responses to emergencies, and promote a sense of safety and security. Adoption of security measures at an early stage can often be more cost effective and is likely to enhance the overall functionality of spaces.





Current arrangements typically focus on the provision of Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) advice on a case-by-case basis. Designing Out Crime Officers (DOCOs) will identify planning applications which may be of interest to the CTSA, who will then provide comments on the project for consideration.

However, by this stage, it is often too late for CTSA advice to be incorporated into designs. Local planning authorities and wider stakeholders may also not be involved in these conversations to the extent that they fully understand and appreciate the benefits of the CTSA's recommendations.

Through ACT for Local Authorities, CTP wish to foster closer working relationships between local planning authorities and CTSA's. This will facilitate CTSA involvement at pre-application stages of planning consultation, enabling easier adoption of protective security recommendations and a deeper understanding of the benefits and risks associated with such decisions.

Similarly, these relationships will help to foster improved alignment to The National Planning Policy Framework and associated Guidance, including local planning policy, thus maximising the relevance and impact of CTSA advice.

It is also anticipated that a closer relationship between CTSAs and the local planning authority will facilitate greater understanding of protective security and preparedness amongst wider stakeholders, particularly for the stakeholders involved in the Royal Institute of British Architects' (RIBA) planning process. This may, for example, help designers or architects, who already engage with the local planning authority to better understand their requirements and other considerations, such as crime prevention and sustainability.





Use of the National Protective Security Authority's (NPSA) Security Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work will encourage all stakeholders involved through Stages 0-7 of the RIBA Plan of Work to participate appropriately in the security of developments.

Finally, CTSAs can support the local planning authority in understanding and applying the Sensitive Information in Planning Applications (SIPA) process. This will ensure that the planning application process itself is secure and that applications of a sensitive nature continue to be available to those with a need or right to know but are adequately protected from being used to inform those with hostile intent.

Planning & Development Tools

Further Reading & Reference

[NPSA Security Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work](#)

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) in collaboration with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (PCPI), have created the Security Overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work which is for everyone involved in the safe and secure design, construction and operation of any building.

The document details the different security considerations and documentation recommended for each of the RIBA stages of work. Adherence to this guidance will ensure that security is considered in a timely manner, which makes adoption and incorporation of identified measures far more manageable and cost-effective in the long-term.

National Planning Policy [Framework](#) and [Guidance](#).

The National Planning Policy sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

The NPPF sets out the threshold for use of [planning conditions](#), which can be a means of ensuring certain security considerations become a condition of the planning application being successful.

Please note local equivalents for devolved administrations:

- Wales - [Planning Policy Wales \(PPW\)](#) together with their [Technical Advice Note 12 \(TAN 12 – Wales\)](#)
- Scotland - [Scottish Planning Policy's \(SSP\) Planning Policy Note 77 \(PAN 77 – Scotland\)](#)
- Northern Ireland - [Strategic Planning Policy Statement \(SPPS – Northern Ireland\)](#)

The Register of Security Engineers and Specialists (RSES)

The Register of Security Engineers and Specialists (RSES) has been established to promote excellence in security engineering by providing a benchmark of professional quality against which its members have been independently assessed. Registration is open to engineers, applied scientists and specialists who apply their knowledge to securing the built environment and infrastructure.

- [Website - Register of Security Engineers and Specialists \(rses.org.uk\)](https://rses.org.uk)
- [Register](#)
- [NPSA Guidance: Procuring the services of a specialist security consultant](#)

Guidance & Resources

The National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) are the National Technical Authority for physical and personnel security. As part of the Security Service MI5, they are a key partner to Counter Terrorism Policing and provide detailed technical guidance which is available as open source. Below are some of their key guidance documents relevant to planning.

- [NPSA Security Considerations Assessment Guidance](#)
- [NPSA HVM Guidance](#)
- [NPSA Glazed Facades Guidance](#)
- [NPSA Major Infrastructure Projects – security consideration for clients](#)
- [NPSA Venues and Public Spaces – Planning Officer Tool](#)

Schemes

[SIPA \(Sensitive Information in Planning Applications\)](#)

A joint scheme between the NPSA and Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to prevent sensitive venue information being exposed to the public during the planning process. Similar to the Sensitive Information in Licensing (SILA) but is currently not part of legislation. Specific Guidance on how SIPA can be applied can be found [here](#).