ACT for Local Authorities

Transport & Highways

ACT ACTION COUNTERS TERRORISM
LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NaCTSO NATIONAL COUNTER TERRORISM SECURITY OFFICE

Introduction

Over the last decade, there have been repeated instances, in both the UK and Europe, where terrorists have threatened or targeted road networks, highways, and public transport systems. Given these threats, it is crucial to consider the ways that protective security and preparedness can mitigate the likelihood and impact of such incidents.

Transport infrastructures are vital to local economies, mobility and services. They are often busy, accessible and difficult to secure completely, making them attractive targets for those seeking to cause mass disruption, fear, and casualties.

Globally, road transport and highways have shown themselves to be vulnerable to terrorist activity, both as a potential target and as a resource for terrorists to exploit. This has been shown by the use of improvised explosive devices detonated on public transport networks and in private hire vehicles, and vehicles which have been hired, stolen, or hijacked and then used as weapons to drive into crowds of people[1]. In Europe, public transport has been used as a location for marauding terrorist attacks in which terrorists have used knives to attack members of the public.

[1] **Examples of note: Taxi Private Hire:** On 14th November 2021, an improvised explosive device exploded inside a private-hire vehicle outside Liverpool Women's Hospital killing the terrorist and injuring the driver.
Rental vehicle: On 22nd March 2017, a terrorist drove a rented vehicle into people on Westminster bridge, which killed 4 people, before exiting the vehicle and killing PC Keith Palmer with a knife outside Carriage Gates at the Palace of Westminster.
Van: On 3rd June 2017, terrorists drove a rented van into pedestrians on London Bridge which killed two people. They then exited the vehicle armed with knives and began stabbing people, resulting in a further six fatalities.
Bus: On 7th July 2005, the London bus bombing killed 13 people (in addition to attacks on the London Underground on the same day).
Tram: On 18th March 2019, a shooting on a tram/light rail network in Utrecht killed four people and led to a city-wide manhunt.
Hijacked HGV: On 19th December 2016, a terrorist drove a hijacked truck into a Christmas Market in Berlin, which killed 12 people.
Rented HGV: On 14th July 2016, a terrorist drove a truck into a crowd of people watching fireworks as part of Bastille Day celebrations in Nice, France July 2016. 86 people were killed.

Transport networks have also been used to facilitate hostile reconnaissance and attack planning.

Despite these vulnerabilities, road transport is one of the only modes of transport not subject to protective security regulation. As much of the responsibility for road transport lies with local government, it is local authorities which can play a critical role in responding to many of these vulnerabilities. Through partnership working with Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) Protect & Prepare, local authorities can address physical and infrastructural security issues and train their transport and highways teams so that they are best able to identify and mitigate terrorist risks.

For example, mobile or road-based services including buses, refuse collection, utilities and maintenance functions are valuable to counter terrorism efforts by acting as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the local area. They are present in and around venues and public spaces daily, and with appropriate training can be the first people to recognise what looks out of place or suspicious.

To embed counter terrorism considerations holistically into transport and mobile services, it may be necessary to involve other departments or teams from your local authority to support this work, such as Environmental Services, Fleet Services, Waste and Recycling Services, or Street Scene teams.

Protective security and preparedness in relation to transport and highways goes far beyond physical measures, such as hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM), with some of the most effective measures being awareness and training for staff who operate mobile services or public transport. Where HVM is appropriate, there is a wealth of information publicly available about the role, use, and specifications of HVM in public spaces, the most relevant of which is included in the toolkit below. CTP's network of Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) can support local authorities to determine what might be most appropriate and beneficial to your local area, and signpost you to the most relevant detailed guidance.

Through closer engagement with CTP Protect & Prepare, you will also understand the low cost, low effort activity and opportunities that can enhance protective security and preparedness across transport and infrastructure, and will be supported to ensure these functions can make a positive impact on the safety and security of our public spaces.

ACT for Local Authorities: Transport and Highways Outcomes

Through engaging with ACT for Local Authorities, staff involved in transport and highways management will:

- Receive support in understanding, identifying, and where necessary adopting physical protective security measures within traffic and highways planning and design
- Access relevant advice, guidance, and resources to integrate counter-terrorism protective security and preparedness into the policies and processes governing public transport operations (including services delivered by third-party providers)
- Access relevant advice, guidance, and resources to integrate counter-terrorism protective security and preparedness into the policies and processes governing local authority service vehicles (including services delivered by third-party providers)
- Consult with Counter Terrorism Security Advisers where planning applications or pre-planning correspondence managed by the local highway authority would benefit from protective security advice

Transport & Highway Tools

Legislation

- Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (UK wide)
- Traffic Management Act 2004

Guidance & Resources

- ACT Suite of free training and awareness packages
- ACT eLearning
- ProtectUK: Working with CTSAs
- NaCTSO/Department for Transport – Countering vehicle as a weapon: Best practice guidance for goods vehicle operators and drivers
- NaCTSO Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Guidance
- The National Vehicle Threat Mitigation Unit, and the National Barrier Asset
- Department of Transport – Meeting the Road Transport Security Standards
- PAS 29000:2021- Commercially operated vehicles. Framework for mitigating security risks

NPSA

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.

- See Check and Notify (SCaN) Training by the NPSA: See, Check and Notify (SCaN) aims to help businesses and organisations maximise safety and security using their existing resources. Your

people are your biggest advantage in preventing and tackling a range of threats, including criminal activity, unlawful protest and terrorism. SCaN training empowers your staff to correctly identify suspicious activity and know what to do when they encounter it. In addition to this, the skills your staff learn will help them to provide an enhanced customer experience.

- NPSA ATTRO Briefing – Online briefing held regularly by NPSA, predominantly for Police and local authority traffic, highways, and transportation or legal staff. Contact you local CTSA for details.
- NPSA HVM Briefing – Online briefing held regularly by NPSA. Contact your local CTSA for more details
- NPSA Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Guidance, including:
    - Public Realm Design Guide for HVM Guidance
    - Consideration for Temporary Vehicle Security Barriers
- NPSA Household Chemicals Guidance
    - Can be requested by a local authority by completing the online form