

CORPS

RELAY

Special Bulletin

Terror Attack in Liverpool 14th November 2021

Change to the UK Terror Threat Level

The incident outside the Liverpool Women's Crown Street Hospital on November 14th 2021 has been declared as a terrorist incident by Deputy Assistant Commissioner Dean Haydon, the Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism. It should also be noted that this is the second terrorist incident in mainland UK within a month, the first of which being the killing of MP Sir David Amess at a constituency surgery in Essex on 15th October 2021.

These attacks have been instrumental in the UK's terror threat level being raised by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) from "substantial" to "severe". This change indicated that an attack in the UK is now judged to be "highly likely", rather than "likely".

What we know about the incident in Liverpool on 14th November 2021

At present, the investigation into the incident is ongoing, with Counter Terrorism Policing taking a leading role. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed publicly, it is known that an explosion occurred in a taxi outside the Liverpool Women's Hospital around 11:00. The passenger in the taxi, 32-year-old Syrian born Emad Al Swealmeen, had been picked up shortly before in the Rutland Avenue area and asked to go to the hospital.

The device that caused the explosion was taken into the vehicle by Al Swealmeen, who is also suspected of manufacturing it. As the taxi arrived at the hospital there was an explosion from within the taxi and the vehicle became engulfed in flames. The first report of an explosion was at 10:59.

Al Swealmeen was killed in the explosion but the driver, David Perry, escaped the vehicle before it caught fire. Whilst Mr Perry was injured, he has been discharged from hospital. The actions of Mr Perry, which included locking the doors to prevent the passenger exiting, undoubtedly saved others from being hurt or killed by the device.

The motivation for the incident remains unclear. There has been speculation that it was linked to Remembrance Day as there have been claims that the taxi was initially heading to a Remembrance Day service, however these are unsubstantiated formally at this time. These claims are accompanied

by speculation that Al Swealmeen did not trigger the device, rather the explosive device was set to detonate at 11:00 to coincide with the two minutes silence.

It is not believed that Al Swealmeen was known to MI5 or the Police prior to the incident.

Known lines of enquiry

Army Ordnance Disposal Officers were involved in examining the scene of the incident and making it safe. The Ordnance Disposal Officers have confirmed that the evidence led to the incident being treated as the ignition of an improvised explosive device that is believed to have been manufactured by the passenger killed in the explosion.

The investigation has identified two addresses of interest in the Liverpool area, one of which is on Rutland Avenue in Sefton Park, and the other is on Sutcliffe Street in the Kensington area. Police searching the address on Rutland Avenue are said to have found significant items, with further searches required of the property.

There have been four arrests in connection with this case, including three men aged 21, 26, and 29 who were at the Sutcliffe Street address and arrested under s41 of the Terrorism Act 2000. A further man, aged 20, has also been arrested. All men are believed to be associates of Al Swealmeen.

A cordon has been put in place around the Rutland Avenue property resulting in the evacuation of eight families.

The investigation continues and Corps Consult will continue to monitor and report on the incident if/when relevant information becomes known.

So, what steps can we take now in our respective businesses and organisations?

- *Are you satisfied with your existing access control physical measures?*
- *Have you assessed whether Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures are required?*
- *Is entry to your premises or estates adequately controlled?*
- *Can you deploy security personnel to perimeter areas which enable them to safely look out for vehicles being driven at excessive speed?*
- *Are reporting mechanism fast enough to enable prompt activation of lockdowns in the event of a suspect IED being found, or a speeding vehicle being detected?*
- *Who has operational control of Security?*
- *Are your personnel trained to understand and identify hostile reconnaissance?*
- *What contingency plans exist to address situations where someone or something worrying or suspicious is discovered?*
- *Do you have updated evacuation and 'invacuation' contingency plans?*
- *Have you appropriate full and partial lockdown procedures in place?*
- *Have you made all colleagues aware of the 'Run, Hide and Tell' guidance?*
- *Are reporting procedures adequate in terms of escalation of concerns, and police support?*

Top Tips

- *Restrict both pedestrian and vehicular access to authorised persons and vehicles only*
- *Be able to physically secure and “lockdown” your premises in an emergency*
- *Prepare and practice your “invacuation” procedure to secure people within the building, the same way you practice your evacuation plan for getting people out the building*
- *Maintain a good flow of intelligence and information, including close liaison with local Police and Counter-Terrorism advisors*
- *Have the right calibre of trained people in place, including well trained Security teams*
- *Carry out regular tests (including Penetration Tests) and drills of all security and safety systems*
- *Implement both internal and external security audits*
- *Review your procedures and ensure that Contingency and Emergency plans are in place and are easily accessible for all relevant personnel - NaCTSO provide checklists and guidance [here](#).*
- *Always ensure that Security teams are alert to suspicious behaviour and activity in or around your subject premises or environment*
- *Ensure your staff, not only your security staff, are familiar and have completed the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) training (which is free, takes approximately 45 minutes and can be accessed [here](#))*
- *Make sure all colleagues are familiar with “RUN HIDE TELL” guidance, ideally displaying the free posters somewhere within the building*
- **REMEMBER** *It is vital that Access Control and anti-tailgating measures are as robust as possible, and that unauthorised persons are not allowed to gain access to your premises*

It is also vital that measures are in place to alert the police via 999 calls (not 101) or panic alarms in real time.

Useful Numbers		
Event	Agency	Number
If an attack is happening	Police	999
If you see something suspicious	Anti-Terrorist Hotline OR Police	0800 789 321 999
If you would like any guidance or support with your Security	Corps Security Central Support	0141 378 7000
If you would like any specific advice on Counter-Terrorism matters	Corps Consult	020 7566 0516

Current National Threat Level

The threat to the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) from terrorism is **SEVERE**

The threat to Northern Ireland from Northern Ireland-related terrorism is **SEVERE**

NOTE:

Threat levels are designed to give a broad indication of the likelihood of a terrorist attack

- **LOW** means an attack is highly unlikely
- **MODERATE** means an attack is possible, but not likely
- **SUBSTANTIAL** means an attack is likely
- **SEVERE** means an attack is highly likely
- **CRITICAL** means an attack is highly likely in the near future