

Threat level system updated to include **all forms of terrorism**

Public terrorism threat levels now reflect the threat from all forms of terrorism. Changes to the terrorism threat level system come into effect from 23 July

The changes, which follow an extensive review into the country's approach to counter-terrorism following the attacks in 2017, mean that the system will now reflect the threat posed by all forms of terrorism, irrespective of ideology.

There will now be a single national threat level describing the threat to the UK. The threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism in Northern Ireland will remain separate.

This means, for the first time, the threat from extreme right and left-wing terrorism will be reflected in the published threat level.

Home Secretary, Sajid Javid said: "Our approach to stopping terrorists is the same, regardless of the twisted ideology that motivates them.

"While the Islamist threat remains, we have recently seen an increase in terrorist activity motivated by the extreme right wing.

"It is therefore important the public is properly informed about the threats we face, which is why we are making these changes."

Until today, the threat level system described the threat from 'international terrorism', which has become largely synonymous with Islamist terrorism.

However, this is now outdated as Islamist terrorism can be home grown, just as extreme right-wing terrorism can have an international dimension.

The changes follow the joint police and MI5 Operational Improvement Review which followed the 2017 attacks.

Based on recommendations made in that

review, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) began assessing the threat from all forms of terrorism in November 2018. From today, the published threat level will reflect JTAC's assessment.

The level of threat has not changed from SEVERE, meaning an attack is highly likely. JTAC sets the threat level independently of the government.

Terrorism threat levels give a broad indication of the likelihood of an attack. They are an important tool for security practitioners and the police to determine what protective security is necessary.

They also keep the public informed of the threat the country faces.

Additionally, from today, the definitions of some of the threat levels will be updated to ensure they are clear and consistent.

The definitions of the Low, Substantial and Critical threat levels will change meaning the new definitions are as follows:

- **Critical** – an attack is highly likely in the near future
- **Severe** – an attack is highly likely
- **Substantial** – an attack is likely
- **Moderate** – an attack is possible but not likely
- **Low** – an attack is highly unlikely

Reporting terrorism or anyone acting suspiciously remains easy and simple to do as it can be done by reporting it online or if it is an emergency or if you need urgent police assistance, you should always dial 999.

However, some of the reason(s) to report anything suspicious to the police or the security services are:-

Research

- Do you know someone who travels but is vague about where they are going?
- Do you know someone with multiple passports in different names?
- Do you know someone who looks at extremist material? Or shares or creates content that glorifies terrorism?
- Have you noticed somebody promoting hateful ideas or extremist views?

Gathering Materials

- Have you noticed someone receiving deliveries for unusual items?
- If you work in commercial vehicle hire or sales, has a sale or rental seemed unusual?
- Have you noticed someone buying large amounts of chemicals or gas cylinders for no reason?
- Have noticed someone acquiring illegal firearms?

Storing Materials

- Have you noticed anyone storing large amounts of chemicals, fertilisers, or gas cylinders for no reason?
- Have you noticed anyone storing firearms which could be used for an attack?

Hostile Reconnaissance

Observation and surveillance help terrorists plan attacks. Have you noticed anyone taking photos and observing CCTV or security arrangements?

Financing

Cheque and credit card fraud are ways of generating cash. Have you noticed any unusual bank transactions?