

SCOTTISH POLICE
AUTHORITY

Meeting	SPA Board Meeting Public Session
Date	Tuesday 28th November 2017
Location	Stirling Court Hotel, University of Stirling FK9 4AE
Title of Paper	Performance Briefing on Counter Terrorism – Synopsis <i>(This item will support the presentation)</i>
Item Number	6.1
Presented By	ACC Steve Johnson & DCS Gerry McLean
Recommendation to Members	For Noting
Appendix Attached	No

PURPOSE

The purpose of the paper is to provide brief outline of the threat from Terrorism in Scotland and provide an assurance of how the threat is mitigated within our communities in Scotland.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 To provide a brief overview of the threat from terrorism in Scotland, the importance in understanding how this threat has evolved from the terrorist attack in Scotland in 2007, until present day with specific reference to recent attacks in Manchester and London
- 1.2 The presentation will provide some detail on the UK CT Network and demonstrate how Scotland is an integral part. It will outline the current governance structure within Scotland and provide a level of assurance of how the threat is managed on a day to day basis.

2. FURTHER DETAIL ON THE REPORT TOPIC

- 2.1 The most recent terror attack in Scotland took place 10 years ago with the attack on Glasgow Airport in June 2007.
- 2.2 The UK CT Network has developed to such a degree from 2007 that we are now part of a co-ordinated response to the threat from terrorism to the UK. This co-ordinated response is led by the SNC (Senior National Co-ordinator) for CT Policing, currently Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu.
- 2.3 The UK CT Network comprises of 9 regions in England and Wales supported by Police Scotland and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- 2.4 The Network is close to the completion/transition of all regions working within a single CT Intelligence platform.
- 2.5 This has enabled the CT Network to operate far more effectively in response to the recent unprecedented threat and in response to the attacks this year from London Westminster, Manchester, London Borough Market, London Finsbury Park and more recently Parsons Green, London.
- 2.6 The differing methodology of the recent attacks also presents significant challenges to the network including Scotland from the sophisticated Person Borne Improvised Explosive Device used in Manchester to the attacks in London Borough and London Westminster where vehicles and knives were the weapons of choice.

Added to this the differing dimension of some of the attacks, with the intention of martyrdom to the more recent Parson Green attack where a device was left and the subject having no such martyrdom intention or aspiration.

- 2.7 Despite the increase in volume of the recent attacks in the UK the 2007 attack remains the most recent one in Scotland. The presentation will look to provide an outline of how the current Police Scotland response may have had a bearing on this and provide a level of assurance to the members.
- 2.8 The strategy to counter the threat of terrorism is part of the UK led Contest strategy with the pillars being the 4 P strands namely Pursue, Prevent, Protect & Prepare.
- 2.9 The governance to oversee the delivery of contest in Scotland is led by the Contest Assurance Group (CAG) chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Justice. This group is supported by the Multi Agency Strategic Contest Board chaired by DCC Crime & Ops Support. Police Scotland's response is assured under the Police Scotland Contest Board chaired by DCC Crime & Ops Support.
- 2.10 Police Scotland's response to the threat from terrorism co-ordinated under the 4 'P' pillars do so on the basis of empowering our communities, safeguarding our vulnerable citizens and working collaboratively with our multi-agency partners.
- 2.11 Training and exercising within Police Scotland and the wider UK CT Network is key to mitigating the threat, of preparing our communities on how best to respond to a terrorist attack, of supporting our vulnerable individuals away from extremism.
- 2.12 The challenge for Police Scotland is to have the capacity in the future to mitigate the "unprecedented" threat from terrorism. It is for Police Scotland to work to mitigate the reach groups in the cyber age and to work with partners in a more collaborative and wider platform to share and develop best practice. There are many areas where that future threat may present itself which could be worthy of further consideration by the Board in the future.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The delivery of the UK CT Policing network within England and Wales is primarily delivered as part of a central grant funding budget from the UK Government. The CT Policing resources within Police Scotland are all resourced from the devolved Police Scotland Policing budget. This presents the opportunity with the ability to deploy significant resources in response to a threat otherwise directed at Serious and Organised Crime, Major crime or local policing.

It also presents the challenge of having more finite resource to respond to a significant and enduring threat or incident within our communities.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications associated with this paper.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no further legal implications in this paper.

6. REPUTATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no reputational implications associated with this paper.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no social implications associated with this paper.

8. COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 8.1 The community impact with this paper is such that it is assessed that empowering our communities in Scotland is key to the success of mitigating the threat from terrorism.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications associated with this paper.

10. ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environmental implications associated with this paper.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

To note the information contained within this report and the presentation to be provided and for any further consultation.