

Newsletter – CT Border Engagement Team

August 2023

Engagement Team

Hello everyone and welcome to another newsletter! Hopefully this keeps you updated with both Kent and Medway concerns as well as national CT issues.

Some will already be aware that we have started updating our campaign material and have new posters for Maritime and Aviation communities. These can be printed off, we will also be handing them out when we are visiting locations.

We have recently been undertaking some joint working with our marine unit engaging with yacht clubs along the river Medway, so we were able to see another view from the river!

We are out visiting so hopefully will catch up with some of you soon!

Stay safe and don't ignore, share it!

Rachel and Colin

Protect Kent
Don't ignore it, share it

Communities working together to keep Kent safe against crime and terrorism

With over 100 active airfields and small airports, Kent provides a convenient gateway to and beyond the South East.

If you live, work or relax in any aviation area, you will instantly notice anything unusual or different. Reporting unusual or suspicious activity could help to combat crime and terrorism.

If you see anything suspicious report it:

- Online: www.kent.police.uk/report
- Talk to us on LiveChat: www.kent.police.uk/contact
- In an emergency or if life is in danger, call **999**.

If you see something suspicious but are unsure of the location use the what3words app to let us know exactly where you are or where the incident occurred, download the free app.

Don't ignore it, share it

Any amount of information could lead to a big result:

- Do not take direct action yourself
- Do not confront suspects
- Do share information as soon as possible

ProtectUK UK

Access real-time information from Counter Terrorism Policing plus the latest protective security advice available at your fingertips 24/7 – wherever you are. www.protectuk.police.uk/

Kent Police Thank you for helping to keep Kent safe. www.kent.police.uk/dontignoreitshareit

Protect Kent
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Communities working together to keep Kent safe against crime and terrorism

With 350 miles of coastline and waterways, Kent provides a convenient gateway to and beyond the South East.

If you live, work or relax in any maritime area, you will instantly notice anything unusual or different. Reporting unusual or suspicious activity could help to combat crime and terrorism.

If you see anything suspicious report it:

- Online: www.kent.police.uk/report
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Small Boats update

As has been widely reported in the media, the number of small vessels crossing the English Channel has continued to be an issue requiring our attention. From 01/01/23 to 20/08/23 inclusive, there have been 380 separate events totalling 17,958 individuals. Our officers continue to work alongside Home Office officials to check them all for any counter terrorism or national security concerns before they are moved on to the accommodation estate. Whilst clandestine beach landings are now a rare occurrence due to almost all vessels being intercepted at sea, the risk of some making it all the way across is still there so we would ask all maritime communities to continue to report any suspicious activity to us.

National Threat Level

The National Threat level remains at SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely. We will always tell our maritime and aviation communities to remain vigilant and to report anything suspicious or that appears out of the ordinary.

What are threat levels?

The system of threat levels has been created to keep you informed about the level of threat the UK faces from terrorism at any given time. This system helps police and other law enforcement agencies decide how to allocate staff. The threat level represents the likelihood of an attack in the near future.

Who decides the threat levels?

The Security Service (MI5) is responsible for setting the threat level from terrorism related to Northern Ireland, both in Northern Ireland and in Great Britain.

The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) is responsible for setting the threat level from international terrorism.

To do this, they consider information gathered through intelligence in the UK and abroad. They also consider how terrorist organisations have behaved in the past.

In some cases, counter-terrorism officials have to use their best judgement when deciding just how close a terrorist group might be to staging an attack. Threat levels do not have an expiry date, and can be revised at any time as the information available to security agents' changes.

**Don't ignore
it, share it**



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General Aviation

Our Coordinator and Intelligence Officer recently visited the General Aviation Multi-Agency Hub (the GAMAH) which is located at Heathrow airport. This is a fairly new national team who review the GAR's (General Aviation Reports) when submitted by pilots and then liaise with relevant forces to determine if an attendance is required to meet a particular flight. New working practices are being planned to improve the efficiency of that process so look out for further updates from either ourselves, Border Force or the National Crime Agency over the coming months.

CPV Aviation/Airsearch

A big thank you to our (Community Police Volunteers) CPV- Aviation/Airsearch members who assisted us with a survey of all the airfields in Kent from an aerial advantage. This has helped us and other agencies to improve our plans and information for these strips.

Online GAR.com
general aviation report



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Head of Counter Terrorism Policing responds to CONTEST launch



Following the launch of the UK's updated counter-terrorism strategy earlier this week, Head of Counter Terrorism Policing Matt Jukes reflects on the threats our nation faces and how collective responsibility is crucial to public safety:

"In 2022, no-one died at the hands of a terrorist in the UK.

"As I look through the plots disrupted in that same year, the reality is that many people could have.

"It is the job of Counter Terrorism Policing and MI5, working with a range of partners and the public to stop these dangerous people.

"We cannot reveal everything we do, but last year our work involved stopping people who were just hours away from stepping onto our streets, armed and fully committed to their awful missions.

"Some of this work really is like the movies, much of it is not.

"The myths of turf-wars between agencies, for example, could not be further from the truth.

"In the UK we benefit from the strongest bonds across our counter-terrorism system that I have seen anywhere in the world. From my organisation and Mi5, through to the education system and private sector, every day I see valuable partnerships between those charged with keeping our communities safe.

"But that doesn't mean we can stand still.

"This week, the Government published its latest Counter Terrorism strategy.

"The latest version rightly highlights the ever-changing threat and the growing complexity of the people who come to our attention.

"There might not be a typical terrorist, but there are new trends emerging. The record numbers of children being arrested is particularly disturbing.

"Across society, from our homes to the offices of social media platforms, we need to ask how we reduce the availability and appeal of hateful, horrifically violent material to young people.

"This does not just emerge as terrorism but the murderous plots of authoritarian regimes against their opponents who have made Britain their home.

"Of course, policing faces many challenges, often visible to the public.

"Reflected in the latest Counter Terrorism strategy is a great deal of police work that most people will not see, most of the time.

"But underpinning that is the importance of our relationship with the public.

"Every year, information from the public makes a substantial contribution to our investigations and if you see something that doesn't feel right, you should always trust your instincts.

"Communities defeat terrorism."

Report online and in confidence at gov.uk/ACT. In an emergency call 999.



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Think before you link – do you know who's looking at your social media?

- Be aware of the information you're sharing on your social media accounts
- Think before you accept a connection request from someone you don't know
- A random connection could be a malicious profile trying to get sensitive information

Have you ever received a random connection request on your social media, telling you about an unmissable job opportunity?

While most of the time requests you receive from others will be completely innocent, remember there are some malicious people out there who may see the sensitive information you have about where you work or volunteer, and therefore you, as a target.

Always be aware of the information you're sharing about your job on your social media. You should also be cautious if you get approached by individuals offering job opportunities.



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ProtectUK

There is a new app available to download to your phone which is supported by Counter Terrorism Policing, Home Office and NaCTSO (National Counter Terrorism Security Office).

You can access real-time information from CT Policing plus the latest protective security advice available at your fingertips 24/7 – wherever you are.

ProtectUK is now available on the go, keeping you updated when and where it matters most – all through the easy-to-navigate ProtectUK mobile device app.

You will be able to manually download/install the free ProtectUK app from the Apple App or Android Play store.

The app provides access to:

- practical advice and guidance to help people and their businesses
- guidance on how to respond in the event of an attack
- information on CT Policing's suite of ACT training products, plus access to the online e-Learning package
- suite of NaCTSO guidance videos
- latest reference documents and publications
- ACT online reporting form and confidential hotline
- emergency response and post-incident guidance
- live-time news updates from UK Protect



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