

Newsletter – CT Border Engagement Team

Spring 2024



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**



Scan here for more details of our campaign



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

CT Border Engagement Team



Protect Kent

Don't ignore it, share it

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:

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Welcome to another Newsletter and I hope this finds you well. I did mention that we had updated our posters in our previous newsletter but have now updated them further with the addition of a QR code, so when you point your smartphone camera at it and click on the link it will take you to the Kent Police website and show details of our campaign and videos of types of suspicious activity we are interested in. We will email the posters out but also have printed, laminated copies and will be bringing these out on our visits and hope you are able to display them publicly.



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Dover Port and Channel Tunnel

There is currently a lot of work going on at the major ports of Dover and Eurotunnel as they prepare for the introduction of the EU Entry and Exit System (EES) regulations in October this year. This will be an automated system for registering travellers from the UK and other non-EU countries each time they cross an EU external border. The system will register the person's name, type of the travel document, biometric data (i.e. fingerprints and captured facial images) and the date and place of entry and exit. This will inevitably mean that check-ins will take a little longer to process than previously, but the ongoing work is focused on keeping such delays to a minimum.

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Small Boats

The number of small boat arrivals containing clandestine migrants is, as expected, increasing now that the better weather is with us. The recent sad news of further fatalities from one of the boats on 23rd April provides more illustration of how dangerous this methodology can be. We have also had the recent passing of the Rwanda Bill into law and it is hoped that that, along with the forthcoming introduction of the Illegal Migration Act (IMA) in July this year will start to have the much-needed deterrent effect.

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.

We will be continuing general maritime visits in conjunction with the Kent Police Marine Unit under Project KRAKEN.



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Vessel Protection Officers

Authorised firearms officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) may be seen in the Port of Dover and surrounding area from **May 2024** as they travel to passenger vessels due to cross the English Channel.

The CNC officers are being posted as Vessel Protection Officers (VPOs) to provide additional public support, reassurance and reinforcement of existing security measures during the busy summer period which includes the Olympic Games in Paris (**26 July to 11 August 2024**).

Kent Police authorised firearms officers will not be deployed to passenger vessels.

The move is part of a summer trial by the Home Office and Counter Terrorism Policing. VPOs will draw on their existing experience of maritime policing that forms part of their CNC role.

Although VPOs are **not** being deployed in response to a specific threat, the role has been developed by the Home Office, in collaboration with Counter Terrorism Policing, to help mitigate the risk of serious maritime terrorist attacks on passenger ferries.

French Vessel Protection Detachments (VPDs) and Gendarmerie Maritime are already used regularly on cross-Channel ferries. The new UK VPOs will complement the work of their French counterparts including a range of potential scenarios throughout their deployment, in line with the normal expectations of UK police officers.



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Online GAR.com
general aviation report

Most of you involved in aviation will probably be aware the civil penalty scheme around general aviation came into effect on the 6th of April meaning that any operator/pilot that submits a GAR with incorrect/missing details as required or fails to submit a GAR or doesn't submit it within the time frame is liable for a civil penalty of up to £10,000. Border Force colleagues have been out visiting sites and issuing an information letter so you may have already received one.

See [General aviation guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk) for further guidance.

There has been significant guidance issued around these changes so it is worth having a look and speaking to your local Border Force officer if you have any questions.

Update

We have recently had uplift of Police Officers joining our Borders Policing Teams at the Channel Tunnel and Port of Dover. We are planning to give them overviews of the general aviation environment over the coming months so you may see some uniformed Police presence at your airstrips as we help them increase their aviation knowledge of Project PEGASUS.



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Number of young people arrested for terrorism offences hits record high

The latest data released by the Home Office shows that 2023 saw the highest number of terrorism arrests of young people since records began (11 September 2001).

Of the 219 arrests for terrorism related offences last year 19 percent (42) of these were young people aged 17 and under.

As a result of this Counter Terrorism Policing are once again appealing to the public to take action and report any concerns they have about family and friends who are being radicalised by harmful content.

Acting Senior National Coordinator for Counter Terrorism Policing Richard Smith, said:

"We take no pleasure from the increasing numbers of young people we're seeing in our investigations and casework.

"Whilst our role is to stop anyone – no matter their age – committing terrorism offences or planning to cause harm to the public, it is truly shocking that almost one in every five of our arrests involves a young person.

"For several years now, we have warned about the risk of children and young people who are becoming involved in terrorism-related activity and the statistics released yesterday reaffirm our concerns.

"Young people susceptible to radicalisation need protection and support to prevent them being drawn into terrorism. I implore parents and guardians to pay close attention to the young people in their lives and look out for the signs that they may be viewing, sharing or even creating terrorist content."

In 2023 there were 52 more arrests for terrorism offences than in the previous year which is an increase of 31 percent and the highest number of arrests in a single year since 2019.

From Jacob Graham who wanted to kill 50 people in a bombing campaign, to Mohamed Al Bared who was building a drone for Daesh, 2023 saw a wide variety of terrorism related arrests.

Richard Smith continued

"Last year we arrested more people for terrorism offences than we have done in any of the four years previously. We are working at pace, day and night, to keep the public safe.

"The role of the public in our mission to keep people safe cannot be underestimated. Please trust your instincts and report anything that doesn't feel right.

"Reporting won't ruin lives, but it could save them."



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....and finally, just a reminder about the **ProtectUK** app



ProtectUK

There is an 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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