

28 June 2021

NATIONAL BULLETIN

## Join our network of vigilance to help disrupt hostile reconnaissance



**As COVID-19 restrictions ease and people are able to shop, socialise and spend more time in public spaces, specially-trained police officers are working to disrupt the information-gathering terrorists and other criminals need to do to plan their actions.**

In order to carry out their crimes successfully, terrorists and other criminals need to gather information to help them plan. This is known as hostile reconnaissance.

They'll get information from a range of sources, but will almost always visit the location they want to target to find out more about what day-to-day life is like there and to assess their chances of success. This is an opportunity for police to detect them whilst they are in the planning phase.

[Project Servator](#) is a policing tactic designed by the [Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure](#)

[\(CPNI\)](#) and the City of London Police to disrupt hostile reconnaissance and stop would-be terrorists and other criminals before they take action.

It's different to regular policing, because the officers involved are specially-trained to spot tell-tale signs that someone may be carrying out hostile reconnaissance.

They deploy in uniform and plain clothes to places that may be of interest to people seeking to gather information to help them plan criminal activity, including terrorism.

Officers can turn up anywhere and at any time across the country – you never know where and when they might pop up next. They are supported by visible and less visible measures, such as armed officers, police dogs and horses, live-monitored CCTV, Automatic Numberplate Recognition and drones.

If officers identify someone whose behaviour indicates that they may be planning or preparing to commit a crime, they will speak to them to find out what's going on. Through that conversation they'll determine if there's an innocent explanation or whether there's cause for further action, such as a search of the person or their vehicle, or an arrest.

But it's not just specially-trained officers that have a role to play in disrupting hostile reconnaissance. Project Servator relies on police working with the community to build a network of vigilance.

National police lead for Project Servator, Assistant Commissioner Alistair Sutherland, said: "Security contractors, stewards and events staff, employees from

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all kinds of businesses and the public, are encouraged to be our extra eyes and ears, and report anything that doesn't seem right.

"They know where they work and live best, so we ask them to trust their instincts.



"No one should worry about wasting police time. Any piece of information could be important and it is better to be safe and report.

"No conversation, call or click will be ignored. What you tell us is treated in the strictest confidence and thoroughly researched by experienced officers before, and if, any police action is taken."

If Project Servator is deployed in your area, it's very likely that the police will talk to you about it. If you're a business owner, they'll speak to staff to let them know what they're doing and encourage them to report any suspicious activity. Staff can also play an important role in reassuring customers if they see the police activity and ask what's happening.

Officers will also approach the public, from a safe social

distance, and explain what they're doing. They will remind people that, sadly, the threat from terrorism has not gone away and that they play a key role in keeping themselves and others safe, by reporting anything that doesn't seem right.

You can be part of this network of vigilance in a number of ways:

- Support Project Servator in your area by displaying posters in your premises and sharing social media content if your local officers @mention your organisation.
- Find out more about how you and your colleagues can help to disrupt hostile reconnaissance through [See, Check and Notify \(SCaN\) training](#). Delivered by qualified police trainers, this programme teaches staff at all levels to identify suspicious activity and what to do when they encounter it. As an added bonus, the skills they learn will enhance the service they provide to your customers. SCaN is about using existing resources more effectively to help keep your business safe. It is designed to work alongside Project Servator and promote effective collaboration with the police.
- Remind colleagues to be vigilant and trust their instincts. If something doesn't seem right, they should report it to security staff or a police officer. They can also report online at [gov.uk/ACT](https://gov.uk/ACT). In an emergency, always call 999.
- Encourage colleagues to complete the Action Counters Terrorism e-learning. The course is free and takes around 45 minutes. Register at <https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>

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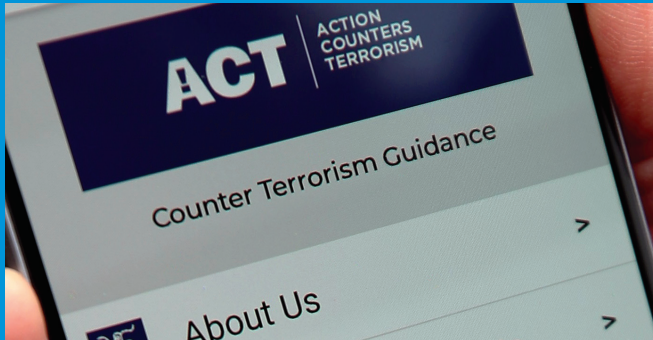
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## SIGN UP FOR THE ACT APP



The ACT App provides useful guidance on all aspects of protective security and is also being used for COVID-19 messaging in addition to CT specific messaging.

- 1** Download the Urim app from the [Google Play](#) or [Apple Store](#).
- 2** Email [ct@highfieldelearning.com](mailto:ct@highfieldelearning.com) to request a user name and password.

**Please note access is for business/professional use only.**

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