

9 December 2019

NATIONAL BULLETIN

Police call on public to sign up to free counter terrorism training

An award-winning counter terrorism training course is being made available to the public for the first time and police want you to sign up and help protect the UK.

Devised by CT officers and security experts, the ACT Awareness eLearning package was previously only available to staff working in crowded places like shopping centres and entertainment venues.

Now Counter Terrorism Policing has decided to open up the training to anyone who wants to become a CT Citizen so they can learn how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident.

The programme was originally devised in partnership with retail giant Marks and Spencer - and participants needed to be signed up by their employers. Today the online learning is available free of charge to anyone who wants to take part.

The decision to offer the training to the public was not made in response to the recent attack in London. However, the tragic events which took place just 10 days ago, when two people lost their lives to terrorism, were a stark reminder of the ongoing threat and the need for vigilance.

“ACT Awareness eLearning is especially useful for anyone working in or regularly visiting crowded places,” says Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi, Senior National Coordinator for Protective Security.

“We developed each stage alongside industry experts and to date over one and a half million modules have been completed.

“The course has been so popular, with nine out of 10 users saying they would recommend it, we want to open it up to as many people as possible.

“The threat level remains at Substantial - meaning an attack is likely - so giving everyone the chance to be extra eyes and ears for police and local security teams help to keep all communities safe.

“The festive period is obviously a very busy one - so this is a good time to join up and become a CT Citizen.”

ACT Awareness is made up of seven modules that take a few minutes each to complete. You can pause and re-join at any time. In total it takes just 45 minutes - so less than an hour of your time could help to prevent an attack or help save lives if one was to happen.

The course is hosted by online training specialists Highfield.

Go to <https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/> to register and start learning.

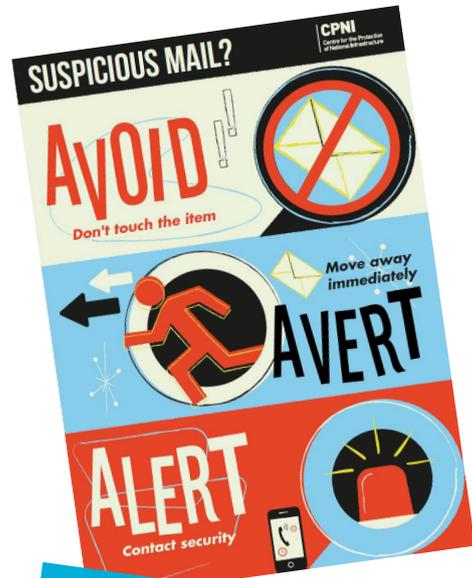
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The festive period is a busy one. There are more events, more mail and deliveries, and more crowded places. Here is a reminder of the steps you can take to support the police, protect your business, staff and customers, and make the UK safer for everyone.

1. Accreditation, search and screening at your events. Ensure you have the right arrangements in place to keep attendees safe and secure. There is [CPNI guidance on personnel and people security](#) here.
2. Busier than usual? If your business is enjoying an increase in festive footfall, then remind yourself of our [Crowded Places Guidance](#), and take steps to mitigate the threat from terrorism.
3. Festive vigilance. We all have a role to play. Please use our free festive campaign materials with your staff and customers, and remind them to report any concerns to staff, security or the police. <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/winter2019ext/>
4. Handling more mail and deliveries. Remind your team of our mail handling protocols and make sure you have effective and appropriate mail screening measures in place. Consider off-site screening. There is [mail handling advice available here](#) and a [Mail Screening and Security Guide here](#).
5. Encourage your staff to play their part. Invite them to complete our [ACT Awareness e-Learning course](#), which is now even easier to access – just log on and learn. More than 1 million people have already completed it.
6. Look out for vulnerable individuals. Your staff may be in a position to identify and support someone who may be vulnerable to becoming involved in extremism or terrorism. There is advice on the signs to spot at www.ltai.info, and support for organisations on [educating staff to identify and report unusual or concerning workplace behaviour](#).
7. Follow our [Run Hide Tell advice](#). Last week we saw acts of incredible bravery by members of the public. But in the unlikely event you are caught up in a firearms or weapons attack, police advice is still: Run to a place of safety. This is a far better option than to surrender or negotiate. If there is nowhere to go then... Hide, it's better than to confront. Remember to turn your phone to silent and turn off vibrate. Barricade yourself in if you can. Then finally, and only when it is safe to do so, Tell the police by calling 999.

Thank you for your support.

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