



Race Director Fact Sheet: Number 19

Counter Terrorism Advice for Race Organisers.

Sadly, recent events have shown us that sporting events (particularly mass participation gatherings), are attractive targets for terror groups, and it is important that all race organisers consider the potential threat from terrorism.

Event organisers are responsible for the safety and security of all those involved before, during, and after an event. The parameters of which will be determined through the SAG process with partner agencies all agreeing responsibilities prior to the event taking place and these decisions detailed in the event plan. Large mass participation events such as the Great North Run and

London Marathon will have a Security Coordinator (SECO) assigned by Police, who will advise on the requirement for counter terrorism measures (if any) the race organisers should have in place for the event. However, the majority of road races in the UK are unlikely to be allocated a Police SECO, and all of these races should carry out their own counter terrorism risk assessments as part of the event planning process.

Generic advice from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) is to assess every event (Road Race) individually and apply common sense when completing a bespoke threat assessment. This can be achieved by completing the Counter Terrorism Threat Assessment matrix below, which will highlight potential threat areas and provide race organisers with an opportunity to either address identified threat(s) or introduce measures of control that will reduce threat down to an acceptable level.

Intelligence and recent UK terrorist activity informs us that attacks tend to be focused on crowded places, in relation to road races these could be Start/Finish lines or pinch points on the course. Recognisable landmarks might also be attractive, as will the presence of VIP's (i.e. politicians or celebrities). Well-known locations and events with a high media profile may also attract greater risk. In addition, events focusing on particular interest group(s) may also pose a greater risk to being targeted by radical or extremist groups.

The matrix below provides examples of areas that should be considered, however please remember that this list is not exhaustive and as a matter of course race organisers should document any additional factors that may apply to their event.

	Yes /No	Notes	Control Measurers
Example: Are start/finish areas easily accessible to vehicles?	Yes	Start/finish areas are on a main road (Closed) that will be heavily populated both at the start and finish of the race and therefore could be a potential target for a hostile vehicle attack.	Consider changing start/finish and spectator congregation areas to traffic free zones away from main roads. Consider vehicle mitigation (if this is a larger high profile event)
Does any part of the race route/			

congregation areas traverse landmarks or areas of high footfall			
Will a significant number of participants/ spectators be likely to gather in one area?			
Will any part of the race be held on open roads/highways			
Does the race include provision for baggage storage?			
Does the event focus on any particular interest group that may be considered a potential target for extremism?			
Is the event likely to carry a high regional/ national media profile?			
Will there be any celebrities/VIP's involvement in the event?			
Will there be any international athletes at the event that may potentially be at risk from extremist groups?			
Is the event planned for a date/period of significance (e.g. The anniversary of an event or the build up to a national event - general election for example)			
Sponsors: Does their brand/product			

represent a potential target?			

Completing this exercise will help event organisers to highlight any potential risks for the event, in addition it will provide the opportunity to either eliminate or minimise risk or amend existing plans, for example, increased marshalling, introduce baggage searching, introduction of hostile vehicle mitigation to prevent vehicle access to vulnerable areas, increased perimeter fencing, etc.

Your Risk Assessments and Event Plans should reflect all counter terrorism measures, furthermore event organisers should ensure that final versions of the event plan (including your counter terrorism assessment and considerations) are forwarded to the relevant local Police force and Local Authority Safety Advisory Group (SAG) <http://www.hse.gov.uk/event-safety/safety-advisory-groups.htm>

General good practice for ALL Road Race events

Regardless of event size or perceived threat, ALL public facing event documentation and pre-race briefings should stress the importance of remaining vigilant and immediately reporting anything suspicious either in the lead up to the event or on race day. Particular areas of concern would include:

- Any unauthorised vehicles parked in restricted areas.
- Any unauthorised vehicles in secure event areas
- Vehicles driving erratically or at speed.
- Any person seen taking notes or unusual photos in event areas.
- Persons asking ‘unusual questions’ or making ‘unusual enquiries.

directly relating to the event

- Persons discarding items such as rucksacks or bags and leaving them unattended.
- Unauthorised use of drones
- ...or just anything that just doesn’t seem “quite right”.

To report any such activity, you should act immediately by calling the local Police on 101 or the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321. However, in an emergency always call 999.

Further information to this general guidance can be found at:

www.gov.uk/ACT www.cpni.gov.uk

<https://www.protectuk.police.uk/guidance>

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