



Derren Parsons

London Protect & Prepare lead

Counter Terrorism Protective Security Operations

Metropolitan Police Service, Lambeth HQ

109 Lambeth Road

SE1 7LP

I write to you again in my role as regional Protect and Prepare lead for London, as once more since June last year we find ourselves finally in a time of welcome easement and transition out of lockdown and the COVID restrictions.

It is of course important to recognise that as the Government road map for easement unfolds businesses will be avidly seeking opportunities to redress what has been a challenging twelve months to regenerate businesses. It has therefore never been more essential as reopening of hospitality, retail and public spaces start to unfold once more we strike the correct balance between prosperity and safety across London.

So further to previous letters in 2020 we again reach out to offer the support that CT Policing offers in assisting you with your local business protective security planning, as we prepare to return to some “normality” in anticipation of the projected milestones of the 12th April , 17th May and of course full reopening on 21st June 2021.

It remains that in your capacity as a key member of London’s business community, you do of course hold an interest in protecting the public and your patrons as business resumes. As the phased release from lockdown takes place we will as before see an increase in public footfall, and increasing demand for shared public spaces, as sectors implement social distancing measures, coupled with spring and summer months on the horizon allowing greater use of outdoor spaces. This does of course already present complex challenges from a public health perspective as well as making the opening of businesses viable. It remains important that security considerations continue to be fully integrated in business planning, whether safety for pedestrian queues, physical distancing search guidance or protective security considerations within pavement licensing. You may remember I wrote to you in July last year following the joint work we had established with MOPAC and the GLA integrating Protective Security into Pavement licensing considerations as “London moved outside” and that continues today. As we rightly prioritise focus on economic growth balanced with public health and wellbeing, challenges around protective security are ever present and the threat from terrorism has not diminished.

The national threat level remains at SUBSTANTIAL – an attack is likely.

I acknowledge that ensuring that both your staff and customers remain health confident is vital to business success. My ask remains very simple, in that protective security remains part of those plans and an opportunity for a “refresh” is considered.

It is well known that crowded places provide target rich environments and as your businesses begins to reopen back to “business as usual” the attractiveness as potential targets will increase and as such return to “ business as usual” for those wishing to do harm.

It is vital that your staff and neighbouring businesses promote and sustain a high level of vigilance and continue to invest in both a security minded culture for all, as well as a strong protective security posture. This will of course not only promote our business districts as safe places to visit to spend money once again, but will also deter future attacks and reduce the impact as a result of an attack. What is key is that we the Police need the continued support of the public, our partners, and stakeholders to be our eyes and ears to help keep our communities safe, whilst increasing its capability to identify and effectively report suspicious behaviour. There will of course be no change to our levels of commitment when it comes to protecting our communities.

My Counter Terrorism Protect Officers (CTPOs) and Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) are available to help assist you to utilise a full range of no cost - self-help options in particular the award winning online E-Learning package, as well as Police delivered counter terrorism products which will increase your staffs awareness and reduce opportunities for terrorist attacks, and subsequent impacts to communities and business.

If you have any further questions or require guidance please contact:
PSOArea2@met.pnn.police.uk

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Derren Parsons
Chief Inspector
Protect & Prepare Lead- London
Protective Security Operations