



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

7th July 2017

WEST YORKSHIRE RESPONSE TO RECENT ATTACKS

1. Both the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Yorkshire Police released press statements following the tragic incidents in Manchester, London Bridge and Finsbury Park in May and June 2017.
2. These press statements are attached for members to see the West Yorkshire Police response to these incidents and also the messages of reassurance to communities across the county.

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23 May 2017

Statement from PCC on Manchester attack

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson, said that his thoughts are with the victims and families of those affected by the Manchester bombing on Monday evening.

"I want to say how sorry I am and my condolences to those caught up in this awful situation," he said.

"I am aware that people from West Yorkshire may have been at that concert and my thoughts are with those families that may have had loved ones over in Manchester last night.

"Public safety remains our top priority and we are working with partners to keep our communities safe.

"There will be an increased police presence, including patrols and armed officers, around key locations across West Yorkshire, including transport hubs.

"West Yorkshire Police are also providing practical support to Greater Manchester Police in such tragic and terrible times.

"We cannot let people who want to cause harm dictate how we live and work and I want to reassure people in West Yorkshire that their public safety remains our top priority.

"If anyone has any concerns I would urge them to ring the anti-terror hotline on 0800 789 321 but in an emergency ring 999."

Manchester Arena terror attack statements:

Tuesday, 23 May 2017- Statement from Chief Constable Dee Collins regarding last night's attack at Manchester Arena:

"In such a tragic and terrible time the thoughts of everyone connected with the Force are with all those who lost their life or were injured during the explosion and for the family members and friends who lost a loved one.

"We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Manchester and our colleagues in Greater Manchester Police and we have provided practical support to the Force.

Emergency numbers have been established for anyone who is concerned for loved ones who may not have returned home 0161 856 9400 or 0161 856 9900.

"The public's safety remains our top priority and we have already increased patrols of highly visible officers across West Yorkshire. This includes an increase in armed officers at key locations including transport hubs.

"This is a concerning time and I hope that our increased presence helps to reassure the public that we are working with our partners to do everything we can to protect the security of the communities we serve.

"Likewise I would urge our communities to come together and show our strength in unity.

"If you have any concerns or see anything suspicious I would urge you to report it immediately to the Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999.

"The easy-to-remember national guidance of Run, Hide, Tell, explains what people should do if they are confronted by terrorists. First 'Run' to a place of safety. This is a far better option than trying to surrender or negotiate. If there is nowhere to run then 'hide'. It is better to hide than 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' by calling police on 999".

Tuesday, 23 May 2017 - Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams of West Yorkshire Police, said:

"I can't begin to imagine the pain people who have lost a loved one are going through right now and my thoughts are with those impacted by these terrible events

"The concert was supposed to be a fun and entertaining event but one that ended in a devastating way. What is important is that now we rally round and support each other to ensure those who intend to cause harm can never win. I am appealing directly to members of the community to remember and cherish the values that bring us together, especially in terms of adversity.

"Manchester is only a short drive away - such an attack impacts on all of us. As a Police Force we are already providing practical help and assistance to our colleagues in Greater Manchester Police and we stand together with them at this most difficult of times.

"Our number one priority is to keep the public safe and we have increased police patrols across West Yorkshire. This includes increased numbers of armed officers. They are at key locations and events to provide a highly visible presence.

"The aim of our increased patrols is to provide a reassuring presence to the communities we serve. I know this is concerning time but I want people to go about their daily business in a normal way, being alert but not alarmed.

"Understandably we have had enquiries about large-scale gatherings and events due to take place in West Yorkshire. We are currently reviewing the planned security for all such forthcoming events as part of our ongoing work.

"We are doing everything we can to protect the communities of West Yorkshire and this includes working with our partners. If you have concerns or see anything suspicious I would urge you to report it immediately to the Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999."

Wednesday, 24 May 2017 – Threat level increased to CRITICAL

Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams of West Yorkshire Police, said:

"I know many people in our communities will have been following the news updates after the tragic events in Manchester on Monday night and heard that the UK terror threat level has been raised to state CRITICAL.

"This means an attack in the UK is expected imminently. This could happen anywhere in the UK and, at this time, there is no specific information about West Yorkshire.

"We've already said in earlier updates that we have increased high visibility police patrols across West Yorkshire and this has included more firearms officers at key locations to provide community reassurance. We continue to work with our partners and other emergency services in these difficult times.

"This is why we are here – to protect the communities we serve – and we remain as determined as ever to keep you safe. It's what we are trained for and what we do best.

"The raising of the threat also means that we can, if required, call on military assistance to help us keep the communities of West Yorkshire safe. People may be expecting soldiers to be patrolling the streets today. This will not be the immediate case. The option of calling on military support is one I am constantly considering.

"I of course understand people's concern at this time but we are doing everything we can. I would urge the public to be vigilant and to report any suspicious activity to the police by calling the confidential anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999.

"There are a number of large-scale public events taking place across West Yorkshire in the coming days and later today England host South Africa in a one-day cricket match at Headingley. There will be a significant policing presence at the ground and at other key sites including Leeds Bradford International Airport.

"Moving forward we continue to offer policing support to our colleagues in Greater Manchester Police and wish to share our condolences and thoughts with the victims and their families affected by the tragic events of Monday evening."

Wednesday, 24 May 2017 – Update statement, CRITICAL Threat Level

Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams of West Yorkshire Police, said:

"As people will be aware, the UK terror threat level has been raised to CRITICAL.

"While this means an attack in the UK is expected imminently and could happen anywhere in the UK, at this time, there is no specific information about West Yorkshire.

"I want to reassure our communities that we will continue to provide an appropriate police presence, which includes high visibility police patrols across West Yorkshire.

"This includes more firearms officers at key locations to provide community reassurance and we continue to work with our partners and other emergency services in these difficult times.

“As we said earlier today, the raising of the threat also means that we can, if required, call on military assistance to help us keep the communities of West Yorkshire safe.

“I can confirm that, like a number of other Forces, we have submitted a request for military support, but people should not expect to see soldiers patrolling their communities at this time.

“I understand people’s continuing concerns, but we are doing everything we can. I would urge the public to remain alert, but not alarmed and to report any suspicious activity to the police by calling the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999.

“There are a number of large-scale public events taking place across West Yorkshire in the coming days and later today England host South Africa in a one-day cricket match at Headingley. There will be a significant policing presence at the ground and at other key sites including Leeds Bradford International Airport.

“Moving forward we continue to offer policing support to our colleagues in Greater Manchester Police and wish to share our condolences and thoughts with the victims and their families affected by the tragic events of Monday evening.”

Thursday, 25 May 2017 – Additional Officer Deployment

Additional armed officers, from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary are now being deployed in support of West Yorkshire Police colleagues across the county.

West Yorkshire Police confirmed yesterday that it had requested military support, in line with procedure as part of the raising of the UK terror threat level to CRITICAL.

ACC Angela Williams said: “CNC officers will be deployed alongside West Yorkshire Police’s own armed officers, at iconic and key sites across West Yorkshire.

“People may have anticipated seeing soldiers deployed on patrol, but as far as West Yorkshire is concerned at present, the military are backfilling other sites, in order that officers such as those from CNC, can be freed up. These officers’ dress is almost identical to that of our own officers, so visually, the public will see little difference. We must also be mindful we have a well- tested and well-practiced Operational Plan to be able to deploy our own officers with colleagues from other Constabularies, which is currently working very effectively indeed.

“The additional presence helps provide greater resilience in keeping our communities safe.

“I would again remind the public that, while the CRITICAL status means an attack in the UK is expected imminently and that it could happen anywhere in the UK, at this time, there is no specific information about West Yorkshire.

“I want to reassure our communities that we will continue to provide appropriate levels of police, which includes high visibility police patrols across West Yorkshire.

“We continue to offer policing support to our colleagues in Greater Manchester Police and wish to share our condolences and thoughts with the victims and their families affected by the tragic events of Monday evening.

“I would again ask that people remain vigilant, alert but not alarmed and if they see anything suspicious to contact the Confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency, always dial 999”.

The easy to remember Run, Hide, Tell guidance explains what people should do if confronted by terrorists and can be found [here](#).

Friday, 26 May 2017 – Major Police Presence Over Bank Holiday Weekend

West Yorkshire Police will maintain a high visible presence, including armed officers at key locations, throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

The UK terror threat level remains at CRITICAL meaning an attack is imminent and while there is currently no specific threat to West Yorkshire, policing has been stepped up across the county and remains under constant review.

Assistant Chief Constable Russ Foster said: "I want to reassure the public that we are doing all we can, round the clock, to keep them safe.

"This includes a high visibility policing presence and the deployment of an increased number of armed officers from West Yorkshire Police, with further armed support from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, at key locations.

"I am really grateful for the many messages of support – directly and via social media – that our officers have received, I know it means a great deal to them.

"There are a number of events across the county this weekend, many of which will see a higher police presence than usual. I want people to be reassured that we are there for their safety and security.

"My advice to people is to be alert, not alarmed and to act as our eyes and ears, reporting anything suspicious immediately either to the Confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline on 0800 789321, or in an emergency, dial 999".

The easy to remember Run, Hide, Tell guidance explains what people should do if confronted by terrorists and can be found [here](#)

Saturday, 27 May 2017 – Threat Level Reduced to Severe

Public urged to remain vigilant as UK terror threat level is reduced to SEVERE

Although the UK terror threat level nationally has been reduced to SEVERE, West Yorkshire Police will maintain a high profile presence across West Yorkshire throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

JTAC, the independent body that assesses threat, having judged an attack is no longer imminent, has reduced the terror threat level to SEVERE.

West Yorkshire Police wants to remind everyone that this means an attack is highly likely.

As in a number of other Force areas, the current policing arrangements, involving a high profile police presence and armed officers at key locations, will remain in place throughout the Bank Holiday weekend.

Assistant Chief Constable Russ Foster said: "We already have plans in place for the weekend and it is practical for us to retain that level of service, as there a number of Bank Holiday events taking place and it will take a period of time for us and our partners to scale back our current response.

"I would like to thank our officers and staff, our partner organisations and the public for their co-operation and understanding during this period. The public support we have received has been terrific.

"Again I would ask the public to remain alert but not alarmed and if they see something you are worried about or know somebody you are worried about don't hesitate, just act. Please call the Anti-Terrorism Hotline 0800 789 321 or in an emergency 999".



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5 June 2017

PCC statement on tragic events in London

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson, said that his thoughts were with the victims and families of those affected by the London attack on Saturday evening.

"I want to pass on my thoughts and condolences to those caught up in this awful situation in London," he said.

"...and I want to pay tribute to the professionalism of the emergency responders on Saturday night and to those brave members of the public. There is no doubt our police and emergency services do a fantastic job but we need to work together collectively even more to try and prevent these tragedies happening in the first place.

"We cannot let people who want to cause harm dictate how we live and work and I want to reassure people in West Yorkshire that their public safety remains our top priority.

"The diversity of West Yorkshire is one of its greatest strengths and community cohesion is vital to ensure our communities feel safe. I know that the impact of recent tragic events will affect feelings of safety, but I am working with communities to empower them to build resilience against divisive influences.

"These crimes often ignore county and national boundaries and the effects of failing to stop them, as we know, can be truly devastating...together we will need to redouble our efforts in finding lasting solutions to these terrible acts of extremism and violence from wherever they come.

"We are fortunate to have the North East Counter Terrorism Unit and a committed team of local authority coordinators across West Yorkshire who work with communities to help prevent people being drawn into extremism, but if we are to stop terrorist attacks we must be able to more effectively identify and support people who are vulnerable within our communities, and disrupt those who seek to radicalise others. That is why I have been calling for a Government review of the counter-terrorism, including the Prevent strand for some time, as well as more resources for policing our communities generally.

"I want to reassure people that there is already an increased police presence, including patrols and armed officers, around key locations across West Yorkshire and would urge people to be vigilant, and alert but not alarmed.

"If anyone has any concerns I would urge them to ring the anti-terror hotline on 0800 789 321 but in an emergency ring 999."

London Bridge terror attack

Sunday 4 June, 2017

Assistant Chief Constable Angela Williams at West Yorkshire Police, said: "Our thoughts are with all the people affected by the horrendous and tragic incident which happened in London last night.

"West Yorkshire Police stand together with our colleagues at The Metropolitan Police and the people of London and we are doing everything we can to support them.

"I would continue to urge communities to remain vigilant at all times.

"Even though the recent incidents are deeply concerning; we now have an opportunity for our communities to come together and not be driven apart by such terrible acts. Our communities need to work together and support one another. West Yorkshire Police take any incidents of hate crime very seriously as they can have a significant effect on victims, their families and the wider community.

"Our number one priority is to keep the public safe and we have increased police patrols across West Yorkshire and this includes high visibility police patrols across key locations and events.

"If you have concerns or see anything suspicious, to report it immediately to the Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999."



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19 June 2017

PCC Statement following the Finsbury Park Terror Attack

West Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Burns-Williamson, said that his thoughts were with the victims and families of those affected by the Finsbury Park Mosque terror attack in the early hours of this morning. (MON)

"This was yet another senseless attack on members of the community," he said, "and I want to pass my thoughts and condolences on to those caught up in this awful incident.

"Let's be clear, attacks of this kind are an attack on us all, they aim to divide us and cause tensions in our communities and we will not allow this to happen.

"In West Yorkshire we know that we are stronger and more powerful when we come together and we will not let people who want to cause harm dictate how we live. I want to continue to reassure people in West Yorkshire that their public safety remains our top priority.

"The diversity of our county is one of its greatest strengths and community cohesion is vital to ensure our communities feel safe and more secure. I know that the impact of recent tragic events will affect feelings of safety, but I am working with communities, our partners and West Yorkshire Police to empower them to build resilience against divisive influences.

"I am also working closely with the Chief Constable to ensure the resources we have are there to engage, reassure and protect all communities.

"This was a tragic incident and crimes like this affect us all, so together we will need to continue in our efforts to find lasting solutions to these terrible acts of extremism and violence from wherever they come.

"If anyone has any concerns I would urge them to ring the anti-terror hotline on 0800 789 321, but in an emergency ring 999."

Finsbury Park terror attack statements:

Friday 16 June, 2017

West Yorkshire Police Chief Constable Dee Collins said: "Our thoughts are with those affected by the terrible events outside the Finsbury Park Mosque. This is a disgraceful attack on people who were simply practising their faith.

"These events will create concerns among our own local communities and we have this morning reviewed our operational and engagement plans across the county.

"The public's safety remains our top priority and we are increasing patrols of highly visible officers across West Yorkshire to provide reassurance. I would urge our communities to come together and show our strength in unity.

"If you have any concerns or see anything suspicious I would urge you to report it immediately to the Confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321. In an emergency always dial 999."

Friday 16 June, 2017 – Bradford specific response

Chief Superintendent Scott Bisset, Bradford District Commander, said:

"Following recent events in London and Manchester, last night's terror attack outside the Finsbury Park Mosque in London demonstrates that terrorism is not confined to one section of the community. What happened last night was a vile act which is intended to cause widespread fear and division between communities.

"The Police in Bradford will continue to listen and work collectively with members of the community, partners and faith leaders including regular discussions with the Council for Mosques. We will all work together to do everything we can to prevent this happening here.

"During the Holy period of Ramadan and the impending festivities of Eid, I am committed to ensuring that people of faith can practice freely without fear of being targeted by other individuals. The Police and community continue to work together to understand the fear people are feeling and provide effective reassurance.

"Officers will be present at key locations and times particularly during any planned community events. As we have continued to do so over recent weeks we will review the operational threats, plan and respond accordingly, particularly this week as the Eid celebrations approach.

"I echo the desire of many Bradfordians - to keep working together to reject hate and division.

"If anyone has any concerns about any individuals, please report it immediately to the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321 or to local officers. In an emergency, always dial 999."