

# News story: Public ACT following call from Counter Terror police

The news comes as one of the UK's most senior counter terrorism officers, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, told an audience of security industry experts today that their role in protecting the public is more vital than ever.

Most of the concerns raised by the public as a result of the Action Counters Terrorism, or ACT, initiative turned out to be nothing to cause any alarm. However, a crucial number contained important pieces of information that resulted in further action from police – information that might otherwise have been missed.

A significant number of the calls were made following the Westminster attack.

DAC D'Orsi, who is the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Protective Security, revealed the figures to an audience attending the annual CT Expo at London Olympia. She also told delegates the police aimed to increase its use of the National Barrier Asset – temporary protective structures – during short term summer events that attract large crowds.

“The increased response from the general public and from professionals whose job it is to keep people safe within crowded places, has been really heartening,” she says.

“But, as we have seen very recently here in London, we can not afford to stand still. We need to exploit every possible way of keeping people safe – and do all we can to keep everyone vigilant.

“We are working very closely with security managers in busy shopping centres, transport hubs and entertainment venues. The fact that record numbers are attending this event shows the desire to do more.

“Whether it is in business communities or local communities, we need to encourage everyone to keep contributing because, sadly, terrorism is a growing and increasingly complex threat.”

CT policing is promoting the National Barrier Asset (NBA) at the two-day Expo. This is a unique unit within world policing that manages, with the help of expert technicians, protective barriers that can be deployed by any of the England and Wales Home Office forces.

Some of the NBA equipment is placed around Parliament and is likely to have saved more people from Khalid Masood's devastating drive along Westminster bridge and around Parliament.

The ACT campaign was launched eight weeks ago. In addition to the 3000 calls, there has also been 300 referrals regarding online extremist material and 850,000 have watched the ACT films. The 'Code Severe' podcast – the first

ever podcast from police – reached number two in the charts.

Full information about the campaign, and how to contact police with concerns, can be found at [gov.uk/ACT](http://gov.uk/ACT).

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## [Notice: Rowing On and Summer Eights 2017: river restriction notice](#)

River Thames restriction information for Friday 19 May 2017 from 1pm to 5:30pm, and Wednesday 24 to Saturday 27 May 2017 from 10:30am to 7pm.

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## [Press release: Ransomware threat – keep your charity safe](#)

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, is issuing this alert to charities as regulatory advice under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Charities could be at risk and are urged to be vigilant.

Over 200,000 organisations, including the National Health Service (NHS), in 150 countries have been affected by a recent ransomware attack. The vulnerabilities exploited by the hackers are the same for charities as they are for individuals, public or private sector organisations.

The Charity Commission encourages all charities to follow protection advice recently issued by the City of London Police and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

### **Key protection messages:**

- install system updates on all devices as soon as they become available
- install anti-virus software on all devices and keep it updated
- create regular backups of your important/business critical files to a device that is not left connected to your network, as any malware infection could be spread to that too
- do not meet any stated demands and pay a ransom – this may be requested via Bitcoins (a form of digital or ‘crypto’ currency)

National Cyber Security Centre technical guidance includes specific software

patches to use that will prevent infected computers on your network from becoming infected with the “WannaCry” Ransomware.

Additional in-depth technical guidance on how to protect your organisation from ransomware can also be found on the [NCSC website](#).

## **Phishing/Smishing**

Fraudsters may exploit this high profile incident and use it as part of phishing/smishing (SMS phishing) campaigns. Charities are urged to be cautious if they receive any unsolicited communications from the NHS.

The protect advice is:

- any email address can be spoofed – do not open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive, and never respond to emails that ask for personal/charity information or financial details
- the sender’s name and number in a text message can be spoofed – so even if the message appears to be from an organisation you know of, continue to exercise caution, particularly if the texts are asking you to click on a link or call a number

## **How to report**

If you think your charity has fallen victim to cyber-attack, you should report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting [ActionFraud](#).

Trustees are advised to also report suspected or known fraud incidents to the Commission by emailing [RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk)

Serious incident reporting helps the Commission to gauge the volume and impact of incidents within charities and to understand the risks facing the sector as a whole.

Harvey Grenville, Head of Investigations and Enforcement at the Charity Commission said:

Charities need to be aware of the imminent danger posed by ransomware threats and take appropriate steps to protect their charity from cyber-attack – a charity’s valuable assets and good reputation can be put at risk from these dangerous scams.

I urge all charities, if they suspect they may have fallen victim to cyber fraud, to report it immediately to Action Fraud and to the Commission, under its serious incident reporting regime.

You can visit [Charities against fraud](#) for advice and top tips on how to protect your charity against cyber-fraud.

Ends.

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## **Notes to editors**

The Charity Commission is the independent registrar and regulator of charities in England and Wales.

We act in the public's interest, to ensure that:

- charities know what they have to do
  - the public know what charities do
  - charities are held to account
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## **[Notice: Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club Regatta 2017: river restriction notice](#)**

River Thames restriction information for Sunday 21 May 2017 from 8am to 6pm.

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## **[Notice: Walton and Weybridge Regatta 2017: river restriction notice](#)**

River Thames restriction information for Saturday 20 May 2017 from 8am to 6pm.