

6th March 2019

13:30

Protective Security Information for the Business Community

## National Incident Update

### Update: Counter Terrorism Command investigating explosive devices



The Met Police Counter Terrorism Command's investigation into three improvised explosive devices at addresses in London yesterday (**5th March**) is ongoing.

The incidents are being treated as a linked series and investigators are keeping an open mind regarding motives.

Staff at three business addresses yesterday reported having received suspicious packages. The packages – all A4-sized white postal bags containing yellow Jiffy bags – were assessed by specialist officers to be small improvised

explosive devices. These devices, at this early stage of the investigation, appear capable of igniting an initially small fire when opened.

The Met Police Counter Terrorism Command is not investigating any other suspicious packages in relation to this inquiry at this time.

At approximately 09:55hrs the Met Police received a report of a suspicious package at The Compass Centre, Nelson Road, Hounslow. The package was opened by staff at the building, causing the device to initiate. This resulted in part of the package burning.

No one was injured. The building was evacuated as a precaution. Specialist officers attended and made the device safe. The building was initially closed and has now been reopened. The Compass Centre is not within Heathrow Airport, and flights were not affected by this incident.

At approximately 11.40hrs British Transport Police were called to reports of a suspicious package in the post room at Waterloo Station. The package was not opened. Specialist officers attended and made the device safe. No one was injured.

The station was not evacuated however cordons were erected in a small area on Cab Road, outside the station. These cordons have now been removed. Train services were not affected.

At approximately 12.10hrs police were called to a report of a suspicious package at offices at City Aviation House, Royal Docks, Newham. Staff were evacuated from the building as a precaution. The package was not opened and no one was injured. Specialist officers attended and made safe the device. The building has been reopened. Flights to and from the airport were not affected.

Commander Clarke Jarrett, head of the Met Police Counter Terrorism Command, said: "The Met Police is working closely with the CT Policing Network and police partners more widely. We are pursuing a number of lines of enquiry. One such line is the possibility that the packages have come from Ireland."

"Our utmost priority is to ensure the safety of the public and staff working with mail. Yesterday we quickly shared images of the packages with staff at transport hubs and mail handling companies and offices, to aid them in identifying similar packages, however we have not received any further reports."

The Met Police is today releasing the third image of the exterior of a package.

Commander Jarrett continued: “We have issued extensive advice to transport hubs and mail sorting companies to be vigilant for and report suspicious packages to police, as always we encourage anyone who sees something suspicious to report it.”

Suspicious activity can be reported by calling the confidential phone line 0800 789 321 or filling in a secure form at [www.gov.uk/act](http://www.gov.uk/act).

Officers from the British Transport Police are present at Waterloo Station to provide reassurance to the public. Specially-trained Met Police Project Servator officers, who carry out operations every day, will be present at some transport hubs. The officers are both plain clothes and uniform and are specially trained to identify tell-tales signs that someone is in an area for terrorist or other criminal purposes.

No arrests have been made. Enquiries continue.

**Members of the public should always remain alert to the danger of terrorism and report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 or via the confidential hotline: 0800 789 321.**



### Screening Mail and Courier Deliveries

#### **PAS 97: 2015 Mail screening and security - Specification**

PAS 97 is the current comprehensive guidance on mail screening and security, produced by CPNI in collaboration with the British Standards Institution (BSI), and with the assistance of a range of stakeholders. It aims to assist organisations in assessing the risks they face from postal threats, and in implementing appropriate screening and security measures, either internally or outsourced.

Click [here](#) for further information and links in relation to mail handling and screening.

### Mail Screening Matters – CPNI’s mail screening and security campaign

To increase the level of understanding and uptake of the information contained within PAS 97, CPNI has produced a range of guidance products on postal security. The [Mail Screening Matters](#) campaign materials are aimed at a range of audiences, from general awareness products for non-mail handling staff, recognition and response guidance for front-line mailroom staff, to convenient materials for security managers who are assessing and implementing screening and security measures.

### General protective measures

Although any suspect item should be treated seriously, remember that the great majority will be false alarms and a few may be hoaxes. Try to ensure that your procedures, while effective, are not needlessly disruptive. A properly conducted risk assessment should give you a good idea of the likely threat to your organisation and indicate precautions you need to take.

Ensure that all staff who handle and open mail and other deliveries are and remain aware of the [possible indicators that a delivered item may be of concern](#), and the appropriate [action upon discovery of any suspicious delivered item](#). While this advice applies particularly to staff in post rooms, it is also relevant to all staff who may be the recipients of such items, as well as staff at entrances who may receive hand and courier delivered items. Encouraging regular correspondents to put their return address on each item, and in particular to provide advance warning of unusual items can help reduce false alarms.

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