

HOW TO RECOGNISE HOSTILE RECONNAISSANCE AND SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

What is Hostile Reconnaissance?

Hostile reconnaissance is the purposeful observation of people, places, vehicles and locations to collect information to inform the planning of a hostile act against a specific target.

All criminal acts require intelligence about their targets and their environments in order to identify the best method and time of attack.

There is no set time period in which Hostile Reconnaissance can be carried out. It can be from once a week to several times within a day on the same target and includes the following:

- Gathering information in initial target selection phase
- Collecting information during a pre-attack reconnaissance
- Pulling together information during a rehearsal stage

How can you help?

- Every time that hostile reconnaissance is undertaken those that carry it out are at their most vulnerable to detection.
- By knowing the kind of behaviour to look out for you will be able to recognise when hostile reconnaissance is taking place.
- This will not only allow the appropriate police action to take place but may lead to investigations and arrests.

What are the key behaviours that may indicate Hostile Reconnaissance?

- Entering a restricted area
- Making observations (from a restricted or sensitive area)
- Taking measurements (counting footsteps or measuring distance)
- Drawing diagrams (or taking notes without good cause)
- Taking photographs (that are suspicious)
- Taking video footage (that is suspicious)
- Paying attention to security (security measures or access areas)
- Using anti-surveillance techniques (doubling back, changing appearance)
- Testing existing security (testing access, abandoning items)
- Parking a vehicle in a restricted area (or abandoning a vehicle without authority)
- Driving a vehicle in an unusual way (slowly repeatedly on the same route)
- Asking questions about security (security levels, duty times, CCTV)
- Providing an implausible account (no account for suspicious behaviour)
- Carrying suspicious material (video, maps of sensitive areas, etc)
- Failing to comply with security (appearing to comply with security requests but actions do not)

It's probably nothing but

Activities or events which may raise your concerns for suspicion may not fall into the category of Hostile Reconnaissance but still need reporting. Here are some examples of suspicious activity.

YOU NEED TO IDENTIFY

somebody who

- Is behaving noticeably differently
- Is suspected of being involved in radicalisation
- Is taking an unnatural interest in security measures
- Is distributing what appears to be extremist literature
- Uses an unusually large number of mobile phones
- Has bought or is storing large amounts of chemicals
- Has bought, borrowed or hired a vehicle in suspicious circumstances
- Has dramatically changed their physical appearance
- Holds passports or other documents in different names
- Appears to be involved in unusual or unexplained fundraising
- Travels for long periods of time, but is vague about where they're going

None of these points should be taken in isolation

WHAT TO REPORT.... Remember SALUTE

Situation - who or what you saw

Activity - what was the person or vehicle doing

Location - exact place where it happened and its significance

Unit - who is making the observation (include their full details)

Time - time and date of the specific incident being reported, including start and finish times and any movements

Equipment - any specific equipment used to record the incident (i.e. CCTV camera)

DON'T RELY ON OTHERS, IF YOU SUSPECT IT, REPORT IT

The Police ask the public and security to remain vigilant and trust their instinct by reporting suspicious activity.

For **EMERGENCY** only (i.e. suspect present or immediate risk of harm) call 999.

For **NON-EMERGENCY** (suspect not present and no immediate risk) call 101.

The Police will treat any call with the strictest confidence. However, if you would like to remain anonymous you can contact the **ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE** on 08000 324 539.

If you believe that you, your family or your business are at risk from terrorist attack, you may obtain protective security advice from your Local Counter Terrorism Awareness by contacting:

CTSA@Cheshire.police.uk

CTSA@Cumbria.police.uk

CTSA@GMP.police.uk

CTSA@Lancashire.police.uk

CTSA@Merseyside.police.uk

Further Counter Terrorist advice can be found at MI5 - The Security Service www.mi5.gov.uk

Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure www.cpni.gov.uk

National Counter Terrorism Security Office www.nactso.gov.uk