



# COUNTER TERRORISM POLICING

## International Counter Terrorism Awareness

### Helpful Advice

This document is intended to assist you:

- Identify and respond to Suspicious Behaviour
- Identify and deal with Suspicious Items
- Respond to a Firearms or Weapons attack

For further information visit: [Gov.uk/nactso](https://www.gov.uk/nactso)

### IDENTIFYING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

**Remember to focus on behaviour not appearance**

#### On foot

- Loitering in restricted or public areas
- Paying significant interest to: entrances, exits, CCTV or security staff, taking photos
- Concealing face / identity
- Asking unusual or security related questions
- Avoiding security staff
- Activity inconsistent with the nature of the building or area

#### From a vehicle

- Vehicles parked out of place
- Vehicles retracing the same route
- Trust your instincts, if you see anything suspicious take action



### IDENTIFYING SUSPICIOUS ITEMS

**Hidden:** has the item been hidden? Has any attempt been made to conceal the item from view or place it where accidental discovery is unlikely? Innocent items are not usually hidden deliberately.

**Obvious:** is the item obviously suspicious? Can wiring or batteries be seen? Is it taped or contains liquids or powders? Has it been found after seeing suspicious behaviour?

**Typical:** is the item typical of what you might reasonably expect to find in the location? Also consider the current threat? Ask has anyone left the item?



## ACTIONS TO TAKE IF YOU BELIEVE THE ITEM TO BE SUSPICIOUS

- **Confirm** that the item is suspicious
- **Clear** the area to the best of your ability  
Do not touch the item and leave it in place
- **Communicate** to your team and the police  
Do not use radio handsets within 15 metres of the item
- **Control** access into the area



## REPORTING SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

- Who did you see, what did they look like, what were they wearing?
- What have you seen, what has happened, what was it that made you suspicious?
- Where did the situation happen and where were you?
- When did it happen – what time?

Don't be afraid and don't worry about over-reacting, have the confidence to act.

Your actions could help avert an attack and save lives.



## RESPONDING TO A FIREARMS OR WEAPONS ATTACK



### RUN

- If there is a safe route, RUN, if not hide
- Insist others go with you
- Don't let them slow you down
- Leave your belongings behind



### HIDE

- If you can't run, HIDE
- Find cover from gunfire
- Be aware of your exits
- Lock yourself in a room if you can
- Move away from the door
- Be very quiet, turn off your phone
- Barricade yourself in



### TELL

- Call the police when you are safe
- Give your location
- Describe the attacker
- Can you safely stop others from entering the area