

Lifting lockdown: Getting back to business safely

As we start to emerge from national lockdown and people are able to shop, socialise and spend more time in public spaces, we want everyone to stay safe and enjoy being out and about again.

Following a year of restrictions impacting all our lives, we recognise people are keen to get out and about, and the importance of business being able to return to more regular trading patterns. Understandably, terrorism won't have been high on people's agendas in recent months. However the threat remains at SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely.

As you prepare for the much-anticipated return of customers, visitors and staff, alongside the important work you're doing to protect public health, we ask that you continue to keep security front of mind throughout your reopening – helping to protect your staff and customers not just from Covid, but terrorism too.

Counter Terrorism Policing has four actions we ask you to undertake ahead of social restrictions lifting in the coming weeks:

1. Encourage your communications colleagues to access [CTP's 'Lifting Lockdown' communications toolkit](#) with messaging and materials you can use internally and externally to encourage vigilance and reporting
2. Arrange for staff to take our Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Awareness [online e-learning course](#). It is free, takes just 45 minutes to complete and could save lives
3. Review our sector-specific [crowded places advice](#) documents, and make sure that you carry out risk assessments on existing sites and any new areas such as outdoor spaces opened to meet Covid safety rules



4. [Download the ACT app](#) to your phone to get up to date information from CT Policing, and encourage your staff to do the same.

Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations, Neil Basu said:

"At the start of 2020, few of us could have anticipated the challenging times we would face over the last year."

"So many of you have worked tirelessly to keep others safe from the ever-present threat of COVID across the UK and so it's understandable that terrorism hasn't been top of mind, but sadly we do need to be aware that the threat has not gone away."

"As we move out of lockdown restrictions, I urge businesses to remain vigilant and encourage their staff to ACT if they see anything suspicious by reporting it. By being alert and reporting concerns, the public can help to minimise the chance of attack and keep us all safe."

Helpful Resources

[National Counter Terrorism Security Office](#)

The NaCTSO website supports the 'Protect and Prepare' strands of the government's counter terrorism strategy

[Counter Terrorism Website](#)

Counter Terrorism Policing's official website with news and information for the public

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