

Developing the protective security plan

How to develop a counter terrorism protective security plan.

First published 1 June 2026

The counter terrorism (CT) security coordinator should be tasked by the strategic commander or other police lead for the event to develop a CT protective security plan.

The plan should:

- be informed by threat, risk and other relevant events or operational factors, for example, pre-event threat assessments, or the police strategic commander's intentions
- consider the impact of other tactical and operational plans, for example, firearms plan, protected person(s) plan
- highlight any identified vulnerabilities associated with the event or operation
- highlight residual risk and include contingency plans for managing that risk
- provide proportionate recommendations to meet strategic objectives

The CT security coordinator should use the [national decision model](#) to inform the plan's development and:

- conduct site venue visits (also known as venue reconnaissance) to gather information and intelligence
- assess methods of attack (including potential impact) to develop relevant mitigation options and contingencies
- liaise with relevant partners and stakeholders to understand and inform their planned input and activity relating to security at an event or operation
- attend relevant planning meetings, such as tactical planning group meetings
- collate and review other tactical plans, ensuring they complement each other and support the overarching strategy from a protective security perspective
- ensure all versions of the plan are retained in accordance with the force retention and disclosure policies and made available for auditing purposes

Recommendations in the CT protective security plan should be proportionate to the assessed threat, rather than limited by resource availability.

In addition to developing a CT protective security plan and providing advice, CT security coordinators should:

- conduct other security assessments or reviews if requested by a strategic commander
- conduct and support, where practicable, debriefs from the perspective of protective security and ensure learning is captured to inform future planning

For events that do not meet the threshold for CT security coordinator deployment, but where protective security advice is requested, a generic security advice document may be supplied by CT security coordinators to local police commanders to assist their planning and decision-making.

This document should include general security considerations and anything CT security coordinators deem relevant to the event or operation for which the advice has been requested. There is no prescribed template for this type of document.

Tags

Counter terrorism