

**SE**  
**CTU**

**PREVENT  
PURSUE  
PROTECT  
PREPARE**

## What is the South East Counter Terrorism Unit?

The South East Counter Terrorism Unit (SECTU) is part of the national Counter Terrorism Network leading the police response to international terrorism and domestic extremism.

Formed in April 2009, SECTU covers the police force areas of Thames Valley, Hampshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent. The unit is led by Thames Valley Police and has its central base in Berkshire.

The overarching aim of the unit is to create a co-ordinated regional response to terrorism, providing specialist support and expertise in counter terrorism to police forces in the South East region and to support the national counter terrorism network when required.

SECTU addresses the four elements, Protect, Prepare, Prevent and Pursue which form the Government's strategy in response to terrorism known as CONTEST.

As well as investigating terrorism and domestic extremism and bringing offenders to justice; SECTU works towards preventing terrorism and preparing and training police forces to make them more resilient. The unit also helps to reduce the risks to crowded places and businesses in the South East and strengthen border security.

There are similar regional units in The North East, North West, and West Midlands. Together with the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command, these units carry out essential work to make communities safer.

## The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy

The Government's long-term Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) was introduced in 2003 and updated in March 2009. Its aim is to reduce the risk from International terrorism, so that people can go about their daily lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is divided into four principle strands:

**PREVENT** – Tackling terrorism and its underlying causes by working together. The main aim is to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. Prevent also aims to challenge extremist ideologies which can be used in attempts to justify terrorism, and to provide interventions for extremists who are moving into terrorism.

**PURSUE** – Reducing the terrorist threat by pursuing terrorists and bringing them to justice. Gathering intelligence, disrupting activity and taking action to frustrate terrorist attacks. International cooperation with partners and allies overseas to strengthen intelligence and disrupt activity outside of the UK.

**PROTECT** – Protecting the public by 'target hardening' the UK and protecting UK interests overseas. Strengthening border security, protecting key utilities by working with the private sector, reducing the risks to the transport network, and to people in crowded places.

**PREPARE** – Prepare for such consequences by improving resilience to cope with any attack. Identifying potential risks the UK faces from terrorism and assessing their impact, building the necessary capabilities to respond to attacks, evaluating and testing our preparedness and identifying lessons learned from real-life events.

**Report anything suspicious: This garage contains chemicals which could be used to make a bomb.**



**If you notice anything suspicious or out of the ordinary call the confidential Anti Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321**

**PREPARE:**



**A multiagency emergency exercise**

## What you can do?

The terrorist threat remains real and there is no room for complacency. The public should remain alert and aware of their surroundings at all times. If something strikes you as suspicious or you are unsure about somebody's activities or behaviour, however insignificant it may seem at the time, call the confidential Anti Terrorist Hotline on **0800 789 321**.

A textphone service is available for people with speech or hearing difficulties on 0800 032 45 39 (text messages from mobiles are not accepted).

Any information passed to the Anti Terrorist Hotline is treated in the strictest of confidence and is thoroughly analysed and researched before, and if, any police action is taken



## POLICE FORCES IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION

# SECTU

South East Counter Terrorism Unit

