

PROOF OF STEVE KENDALL


1. I am Superintendent Steve Kendall - Police Area Commander for Bath and North East Somerset from April 2017 until April 2022. I have 29 years policing service and have significant experience in Neighbourhood Policing and Community Safety. I am also the former Area Commander for Bristol South, and Bristol East. I am a Nationally Accredited Silver Public Order and Public Events Commander as well as the Force Strategic Lead for Prevent under the governments counter terrorism CONTEST strategy.
2. The terrorist threat level to the UK is currently assessed to be substantial, meaning the chances of an attack are likely. There are three main areas of terrorist risk to the UK:
3. **International terrorism** from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al Qaeda.
4. **Right Wing Terrorism (RWT) and Left, Anarchist and Single-Issue Terrorism (LASIT).**
5. **Northern Ireland-related terrorism** continues to pose a serious threat to British interests.
6. Currently in the UK there are 800 + ongoing investigations into suspected terrorist activity.
7. It remains the ambition of many terrorist groups and individuals to carry out high profile attacks in crowded and iconic places to garner as much media attention for their ideological cause as possible.

8. Current assessments indicate that a low sophistication attack using blunt or bladed items or a vehicle as a weapon are the most likely attack methodologies terrorists would use to target these crowded and iconic places.
9. It is also assessed that self-initiated terrorists, those who are radicalised online without the support or instruction for a structured cell or organisation and who work alone, pose the highest risk in the UK.
10. As a result of this threat picture, Bath and North East Somerset Council ("the Council") are seeking to implement protective security measures.
11. Bath is a world heritage site and is visited by millions of people each year. As such, it presents an attractive potential target to self-initiated terrorists seeking to use a low sophistication attack. I make this Proof in support of the Council's proposed Traffic Regulation Order in respect of York Street, Bath ("The Road"). I believe that the facts stated in this Proof are true and, except where otherwise stated, those facts are derived from my own knowledge and understanding.
12. York Street was identified as having a high footfall at peak times. If it did not form part of the wider ATTRO scheme then it would lead to an increased vulnerability and undermine the scheme's integrity.
13. Following on from partnership work with the Council, it has been identified that an Anti-Terrorist Traffic Regulation Order (ATTRO) would be a proportionate and measured tactic to assist in the protection of the centre of Bath from terrorist attacks.
14. With particular reference to York Street, the ATTRO proposes to close the Road from 10am until 6pm for anti-terrorism purposes and from 6pm – 10pm for other stated purposes.

15. The proposed order would have the effect of making the Road no waiting, no loading, it would suspend the one way system and it would prohibit driving between 10am and 10pm.
16. The Road and the proposed Order is part of a package of Traffic Regulation Orders which together would strengthen security in the city centre by closing a number of additional roads with the aim of protecting areas of high footfall from a potential vehicle borne threat, either as a vehicle borne improvised explosive device ("VBIED"), vehicle as a weapon ("VAW") or as part of a layered attack – vehicle transporting attackers and/or weapons sitting alongside our existing and ongoing holistic approach to preventing a terrorist attack.
17. Whilst no measures can ever guarantee full protection from varied attacks, based on the current threat levels and what is known about terrorist tactics, it is my belief that the implementation of the ATTRO on York Street as proposed by the Council is a justified and proportionate approach to protecting residents and visitors to Bath.
18. I support the implementation of the Order for York Street, including those provisions relating directly to the Road. This allows for suitable adjustments to allow access to persons requiring it at times when the area is likely to be less crowded and, as such, less of an attractive target to a potential terrorist. The location and footfall of York Street make the Order *per se* a key element of the wider security package.
19. The advantages of the Order being made are in the removing of vehicles from areas where pedestrians have access at peak footfall times thereby reducing the risk from VBIED, VAW and layered attacks at the location.
20. There are no disadvantages to the Order being made from the perspective of local neighbourhood policing. However if the Order is not made, the York Street is potentially vulnerable and its absence would significantly dilute the effectiveness of the overall security measures.

21. Full protection of the site at all times of the day and night would provide a more robust protection to the area but I understand that the Council needs to balance the needs of the public to go about their normal business and other activities, alongside the need to offer adequate protection from terrorist attack. I feel that the imposition of the ATTRO in its current proposed form would strike this balance proportionately.
22. It is my view that, should the ATTRO not be implemented, then the Road in Bath will not be as adequately protected against the likely threat of a terrorist attack in the UK as it should be. Protective Security Improvements are aimed at achieving a range of effects including; to protect and prepare a site and to offer an opportunity to deter, detect and delay malicious acts.
23. Any subsequent terrorist incident that could happen in the relevant area without the protective measures that the proposed ATTRO provides, puts members of the public more at risk of serious harm or death from an attack.
24. The Chief Constable has approved and continues to support the proposal for the Order by the Council knowing that it is based on the best security advice provided by nationally qualified and accredited Counter Terrorism Security Advisors working in partnership with the Council. The Chief Constable seeks to support the Local Authority in making Bath a safe environment for residents and visitors.
25. Therefore, taking all the above factors into account, I believe that the imposition of the ATTRO as proposed is proportionate and necessary in the circumstances.

Signed:



Name: Steve Kendall

Position: Superintendent of Police

Dated: 4th April 2022