



Kent Police

Kent Police Headquarters
Sutton Road
Maidstone
Kent ME15 9BZ

15th June 2016

Dear Sir/Ma'am

As you may have noted from the media horrific terrorist attacks in the US and France, targeting police and the Lesbian Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, have killed 52 people and injured an additional 53.

- The attack in the US targeted the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in a night club and is the single worst mass shooting in US history.
- The attack in France targeted a police officer at his home address and resulted not only in his death but also that of his wife.

We have been and will continue to work closely with members of the LGBT community, including the Kent Gay Police Association, LGBT ICIAS, local partners and the night-time economy to offer on-going security advice and additional reassurance.

Whilst there is no specific intelligence of any direct threat to LGBT communities, the UK threat level remains severe. This means an attack is highly likely and we continue to urge all communities to be alert but not alarmed. The police service and our partners, are continuing to do everything possible to protect the public.

- Remember STAY SAFE principles (Run , Hide, Tell) – more guidance is available on gov.uk (search **STAY SAFE** on www.gov.uk)

Be alert, not alarmed – police nationally have plans to respond to attacks. There is no need to become fearful or withdraw from the streets. We are speaking with all local communities to ensure we review our existing security measures, allocate patrols where required and listen to the concerns to make sure we're responding in a measured way.

Public safety is our priority so Kent Police and our partners are using proven operational tactics to ensure the public is well prepared and protected. Through a combination of options, including deploying high visibility patrols where appropriate, Kent Police has a response in place to meet this increase in threat assessment. You may also notice heightened activity around significant/religious events. **Communities should always feel comfortable asking questions of any officers if they have concerns.**

Kent Police is aware there is a potential for tensions between communities. Incidents of hate crime could increase and I would urge you to report information to us. Experience also shows protagonists are often unable to differentiate between different communities or faith groups. **Visible community policing is intended to make all communities, sectors and sites feel safe and protected.** If you believe you are the victim of, or witness, a hate crime please report it via the details below or the dedicated hate crime reporting website <http://www.report-it.org.uk>.

Remember, communities defeat terrorism so **I urge you to remain vigilant and to report any suspicious activity, concerns or local tensions to us.** Language is not a barrier, as we have translators where required. If you have any information concerning individuals who may be intending to travel to, or who have returned from, Syria and Iraq then please contact our specialist officers in Special Branch in addition to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321.

You will also find advice on the Kent Police website

http://www.kent.police.uk/advice/community_safety/terrorism/terrorism_prevent.html

Non-urgent information can be communicated to Kent Police on 101 – or 01622 690690 from outside the county. Deaf or speech-impaired people can text message the word 'police' then leave a space and write their message and send it to 60066. Always dial 999 if there is an emergency, crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Kind regards

Kulbir

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Kent Police and our Partners working with the diverse communities for a safer Kent

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