



Prevent Fact Sheet

What is Prevent?

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 placed Prevent on a statutory footing and requires all specified authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”. Local Authorities and their partners therefore have a core role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and helping to safeguard individuals at risk of radicalisation. The Counter Terrorism Strategy (CONTEST) 2018 confirms that the threat to the UK comes from Islamist terrorists while extreme right-wing terrorism is described as a growing threat.

The Counter Terrorism Strategy 2018 has the following objectives:

- Pursue - To stop terrorist attacks (the remit of the police and security services)
- Prevent - To stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists
- Prepare - Where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact
- Protect - To strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks

What is the issue?

It has been recognised that people are spending more and more time online due to the restrictions caused by Covid-19. This has increased the access by extremist and radical groups to our most vulnerable in society and provided a new narrative that can be exploited to further their ideals and agenda.

Why is it important?

Prevent awareness is a key strategic objective of the local contest delivery plan. Through the Safe Durham Partnership and Safer Darlington Partnership, the Silver Contest Group’s plan has now been updated to incorporate activities across partners to ensure training is aligned to the Counter Terrorism Local Profile but also to ensure we understand strategic delivery.

How does it impact people?

It is recognised that mental health plays a key part in exploitation, taking advantage when people are at their most vulnerable. Loneliness, community cohesion and poverty have a significant effect on mental health, therefore working closely with support services and care workers, ensuring they have the necessary training and access to resources is key to identifying any concerns at an early stage, thus preventing further harm.

National context

Evidence base

- The UK threat level for International Terrorism changed to Substantial which means an Attack is Likely from Severe (an Attack is Highly Likely) in February 2021.
- The threat level reached Critical – the highest level, where an Attack is Expected Imminently on two occasions during 2017, a year during which there were five terrorist attacks resulting in 36 deaths and hundreds of injuries.

National statistics

- There were 185 arrests for terrorism-related activity in the year ending 31 December 2020, 97 fewer than in the previous 12-month period (a fall of 34%). This was mainly due to a reduction in arrests under non-terrorism legislation. Of the 185 arrests:
 - 56 (30%) resulted in a charge, of which 48 were for terrorism-related offences
 - 73 (39%) persons were released pending further investigation.
 - 40 people (22%) were released without charge.
 - 13 (7%) faced alternative action, for example receiving a caution or recalled to prison.
 - 3 (2%) cases were awaiting an outcome to be assigned.
- **Sex:** As in previous years, and similar to other types of crime, the vast majority of those arrested for terrorism-related activity were males. However, 19 of the 183 arrests where sex was known were females (10%). This was a fall of 12 arrests compared with previous 12-month period, and the lowest proportion of females arrested since the year ending December 2014. The total number of females arrested was under the annual average arrested (24) over the entire time series.
- **Age:** As in previous years, the '30 and over' age-group accounted for most arrests (49%). There were falls in the number of arrests across all age-groups apart from the 'Under 18s', which increased by 7 (from 12 to 19), compared with the previous year. Among those who were arrested, 10% of were aged under 18 (up from 4% in the previous year). While this was the highest proportion seen in an annual period, it was largely a result of falls in arrests of those in older age-groups.
- **Ethnic appearance:** As recorded by the arresting officer: Figures in this section are based on the ethnic appearance of the arrestee as recorded by the arresting officer.

There were falls in the number of arrests across all ethnic groups when compared with the previous year. Arrests for those of White ethnic appearance

decreased by 24% (down from 117 arrests to 89 arrests). There was also a 32% decrease in the number of arrests of people of Black ethnic appearance (from 22 arrests to 15) and a 43% decrease in the number of arrests of people of Asian ethnic appearance (from 111 arrests to 63). The number of arrests of people of Other ethnic appearance fell by 44% (from 32 arrests to 18 arrests).

The proportion of White people arrested exceeded the proportion of Asian people arrested for the third consecutive year. Arrests of persons of White ethnic appearance accounted for 48% of arrests, up 7 percentage points on the previous year. Those of Asian ethnic appearance accounted for 34% of terrorist-related arrests, down 5 percentage points. The proportion of those arrested who were of Black ethnic appearance was 8%, the same proportion as in the previous year. Those of 'Other' ethnic appearance accounted for 10% of arrests, down 2 percentage points on the previous year.

Proportion of persons arrested for terrorist-related activity by ethnic appearance, year ending 31 December 2019 and 31 December 2020, compared with total proportions since 11 September 2001. In the year ending December 2020, arrests of persons of White ethnic appearance accounted for 48% of arrests, up 7 percentage points on the previous year. Those of Asian ethnic appearance accounted for 34% of terrorist-related arrests, and those of Black ethnic appearance was 8%. The proportion of those arrested who were of 'Other' ethnic appearance was 10%.

- **Nationality:** Of those arrested in the latest year, 81% considered themselves to be of British or British dual nationality, up ten percentage points on the previous year and the highest proportion in a calendar year since the data collection began. The proportion increased from 33% in the year ending December 2002 to 80% in the year ending December 2014 and has not fallen below 66% since.

Overall, since 11 September 2001 (when the data collection began), 62% of those arrested considered themselves to be of British or British dual nationality

Resources

<https://actearly.uk/>

www.ltaitest.co.uk/

<https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/>

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/counter-terrorism>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-quarterly-update-to-december-2020/operation-of-police->

[powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-and-subsequent-legislation-arrests-outcomes-and-stop-and-search-great-britain-year-ending](#)