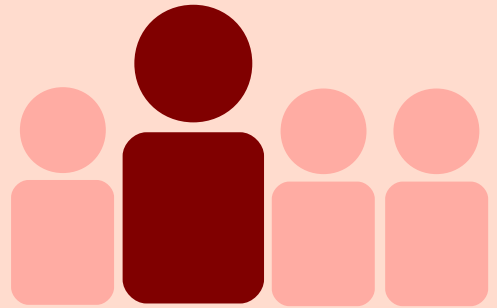
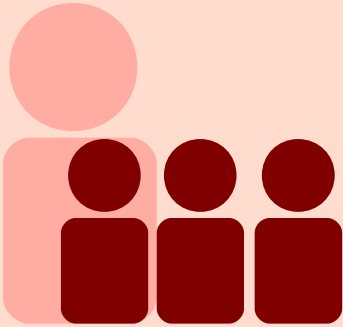


Safer places

a counter-terrorism supplement



For planners, designers & local authorities in England

This consultation is mostly about new buildings and public spaces, although if you want to fit security features to a building that already exists, some of it will apply.

Local authorities need to read this guide, because it should be helping them decide whether planning applications should be granted.

How terrorists attack public spaces

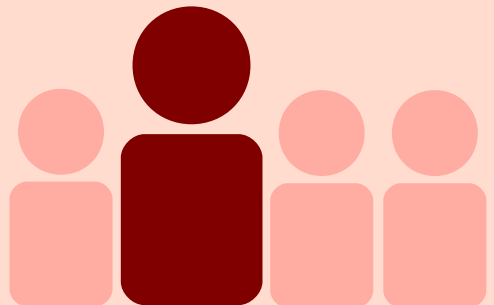
There are three main ways that terrorists use to attack public places:

- Suicide bombs
- Car bombs
- Hand-delivered bombs

Suicide bombing is the most dangerous, because it's less likely to get discovered beforehand, and the terrorist can find the place they're likely to have most effect in.

Other threats

There's also the threat of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The best protection against these kind of weapons is prevention, mostly through designing buildings so the important places are hard to get to, access is controlled, and things like air intake are protected.



The effects of an explosion in a public space

If an explosion happens, these are the major effects to watch out for:

- 1. the blast wave – this moves out around the explosion, getting less the further away from the centre. Buildings and other structures in the way can affect the way the blast wave moves.**
2. With strong explosives you will get a fire ball at the centre of the explosion.
- 3. The explosion will make a crater in the ground, and travel through the ground around the blast zone.**
4. The bomb will shatter with the force of the explosion, throwing shrapnel into the air (usually from whatever the bomb was made of), and the explosion will also shatter things like slate, glass, wood and metal in the area, and the flying debris can go a long way and cause a lot of damage.

So it's not just the explosion that causes deaths and injuries, the after-effects can be very damaging, not to mention the possibility of people's escape routes getting blocked or even buildings collapsing.

Building a public space

When to start thinking about counter-terrorist measures

These things need to be thought through at the earliest stages of planning – not just in the planning permission process, but in the policies and local laws that come before that. The police and local authorities need to work closely together.

Giving planning permission

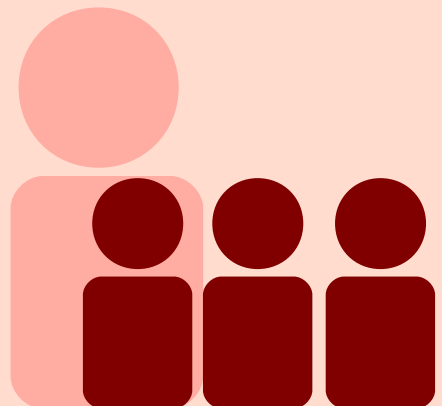
To be properly effective, local authorities need to look at this guidance at the same stage in the planning process as they do the Building Regulations, the Disability and Discrimination Act and fire precautions laws.

Working together

Planning applicants should meet with the local authority to work out what they need to get their security up to scratch. Any security that's not visible can be kept separate from the main application, so it stays secret.

Security plans should be long term and include how much they'll cost to maintain, and plans to review security regularly.

The extra security you need depends on the risk level that's been worked out for your area. If the risks are medium-high to high, then if the recommended security isn't put in place, the counter-terrorism unit will object to the plan.



Your planned security measures can mostly help stop terrorism by:

- Stopping unauthorised people getting in to the building, with electronic and physical barriers, or slowing them down, giving security forces more time.
- Detecting intruders with cameras and systems to detect unauthorised people, and alarms to alert security forces.

Making security part of the building

The government doesn't want the individuality of your building designs unnecessarily compromised by security measures, and suggests that buildings which combine visible and invisible security measures, and reinforced structures, might be the best way.

- Protecting against the force of the blast with barriers and good building materials.
- Tighter controls on who accesses the building and how, and separating off vulnerable areas like mail rooms or entrances from big public spaces.
- Making it harder for unauthorised vehicles to get in, slowing down traffic and putting bends and chicanes in so vehicles can't ram the building.
- Making it easy to see in and around the building, with CCTV and through entrances, so there are less places to hide packages or get in without permission.
- Barriers that let pedestrians through, but not vehicles.
- CCTV cameras in the street, just the normal sort aimed at reducing crime.

CCTV

CCTV is at it's best when you can clearly tell what's going on from the picture. This can be helped with good lighting, making sure someone is always monitoring it and that everyone who needs it is trained in how to respond, and keeping the cameras working. CCTV should never replace people as security, and building designers need to take care, as they could design places where it's easier to hide from CCTV. There's a limit to the number of cameras you're allowed on a building.

Training your staff

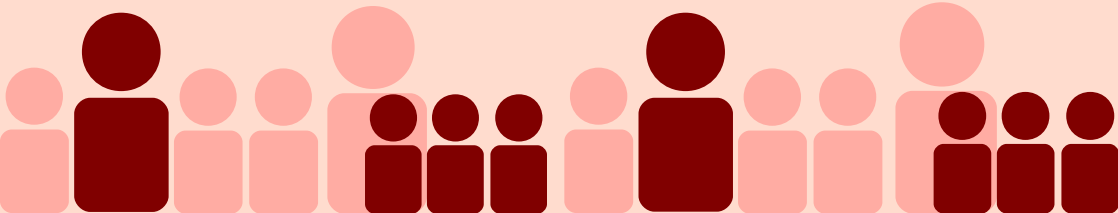
The government would also like to see more trained maintenance staff in public areas, park rangers for larger spaces, for example, and maintenance crews for smaller spaces. They also want to encourage partnerships with local firms, and for example, for people to encourage the police to use local cafés, so there are more trained people around to keep an eye out.

Adapting old buildings

If you need to update the security in old buildings, you should talk to English Heritage. As it's hard to test how old buildings would stand up to a bomb blast, think about putting protective barriers further away, around the building.

Private property

If you own private land or want to build property that the public has access to, the local authority should think about making adequate security a condition of planning permission. Usually, however, security on private land is up to the owner.



Keep this in mind

The most important thing is to listen to people's suggestions – talk to everyone who will be effected and get a wide range of opinions, and to make sure that your plans for maintaining security features are long term, and that they set out how to maintain them in real detail, so that if staff move on their replacements can keep up maintenance.

Read more!

The [original consultation](#) has a lot of very detailed guidance on how to build more security-conscious public spaces, check it out from page 43 onwards.

What do you think?

Email or write to the consultation team with your thoughts and ideas by **30 July 2009**. If this translation hasn't covered what you want to read about, please have a look at the original paper. Please remember that this is an unofficial translation.

CrowdedPlacesConsultation@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Crowded Places Team
Home Office
Office for Security and Counter Terrorism
5th Floor
Peel Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

