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10<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Dear James,

I am writing in my capacity of Regional Counter Terrorism Security Manager for CTPNE and in response to a request around the Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) scheme being considered in York.

I would firstly like to point out that the threat from terrorism remains at SUBSTANTIAL meaning an attack is likely and the response level commensurate to that threat is Heightened. The threat picture includes threats from Self-Initiated Terrorists (Lone Actors), low technology / low sophistication methodologies, the inclusion of mental health issues and an ever changing and unpredictable landscape. This means potential targets and locations are unpredictable and a venue, location or site could be chosen dependent on the radicalisation journey, the ideological cause and stability of a potential attacker. The last few years have seen several no notice attacks.

In the North East we are currently involved in a national pilot called the Zones pilot. This is linked to a national Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) project involving several Government Departments, the Home Office and the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) considering the future of Protect and Prepare delivery and is running alongside the Protect Duty consultation, which is currently being drafted at a ministerial level, expected to go before parliament over the coming months. This will make the consideration of certain CT related security measures a legal duty.

The plans that have been developed in York have been done so with the consideration of a range of stake holders including CTPNE through the Protect and Prepare Group (PaPG) that has been established over several years. This model for consideration of P and P has been highlight as best practice nationally and is at the heart of the current Zones pilot in the North East. The group has evolved to a point it has representation from a broad range of those with a vested interest in keeping York safe including North Yorkshire Police and local business.

We are working with a number of Local Authorities who are making difficult decisions in times of uncertainty, but I am satisfied that the proposals for HVM in York are evidence based and proportionate to the current threat. They were formulated with the

support of specialist teams and will support the longer term safeguarding of the city and its ability to reduce vulnerabilities.

Sadly, there is no such thing as absolute protection, but evidence tells us that where measures are in place to deter, detect and delay terrorist attacks, that threat is significantly reduced as the impact of having the manage and recover from such an attack can be devastating to not only people's lives, but the local economy and wider societal issues.

In summary, CTPNE support the current proposals for HVM in York.

Yours Sincerely,

Danny Groiser  
Regional CTSA Manager  
CTPNE