

## **Witness Statement of Lucy D’Orsi**

### **Introduction**

1. This statement is made on behalf of Counter Terrorism Policing for the Inquests into the deaths which resulted from the terrorist attack in Manchester on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017. On behalf of Counter Terrorism Policing I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were murdered in the attacks and those who were injured.
2. This statement centres on the role of the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) within the wider counter terrorism strategy of the UK government and policing. It details the history of NaCTSO and its functions prior to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 and explains the role of NaCTSO in supporting the ‘Protect’ and ‘Prepare’ strands of CONTEST.

### **Background and Experience**

3. I joined the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in 1992. I am currently a Deputy Assistant Commissioner within Specialist Operations which is part of national Counter Terrorism Policing (CT Policing). I was promoted into this role on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016. I have been a Public Order Commander since 2006 and have held the command of numerous high profile operations such as the Chinese State Visit (2015), President Trump State Visit (2019), RAF100 and London New Year’s Eve.
4. My current role reports into Counter Terrorism Policing and I have responsibilities for protective security both nationally and within the Metropolitan Police Service.

### **2017: The Context**

5. The terrorist attacks in London and Manchester in 2017 marked a watershed moment for UK society, the emergency and intelligence services and in particular Counter Terrorism Policing. The attacks and other disrupted attack plots were unprecedented in terms of pace, diversity of methodologies, targets of attacks and origin of threat. 36 people died in the 2017 attacks and hundreds received life changing injuries.