

Overview of Planning Developments regarding Egress Security Post Manchester Arena Attack

This is a brief overview of work being undertaken generally and then specifically at the Manchester Arena. The information outlined is sensitive 'need to know' and shouldn't be shared widely, however, can be briefed verbally to the mayor or a more generic overview could be supplied in writing.

- Work is being undertaken in several areas by CT SecCOs, CTAs and individual sites. As already stated CT SecCOs assess each individual event and recommend a proportionate operational response and security measures for the whole event including egress.
- Following on from the attack in May all CTAs were tasked by OSCT via NaCTSO in July 2017 to engage with key sites / venues to ensure that respective security plans and practices were consistent, mutually compatible, with no conflicting overlaps or significant gaps in security considerations by :
 1. Reviewing all T1&2 Crowded Place sites in the region to ensure that where there is a planned exit of people (i.e. Manchester arena) then that exit phase is considered and integrated within current emergency security planning
 2. CTAs to identify all T1&2 Crowded Places sites where they are located in areas which overlap or are adjacent to national rail or underground railway sites
 3. Sites identified in point 2 (above) are to have their security plans reviewed by CTAs in conjunction with BTP

This task was completed by 31st July 2017

- The Protective Security Improvement Activity tool used by the CTAs is being refreshed to include consideration of egress from sites and events within security plans. This will be published in the New Year, however, in the interim all site and crowded places assessments now include this consideration
- CTAs engage with all the GM Local Authorities via the Security Review Groups that were set up following the Arena attack. This has led to the protection of public realm and grey spaces as well as engagement and advice for redevelopment and new build projects
- Specific engagement with the Manchester Arena regarding security measures including egress are reflective of all other engagement surrounding sites and events. This includes the delivery of ACT Awareness and Argus for personnel which assists individuals to identify suspicious activity and items and it is planned to deliver SCaN (which is the product developed in conjunction with Servator) in the future. The site itself have implemented numerous overt and covert security measures since the attack, some of which are listed below:
 - Nobody is allowed to wait in the City Rooms (where the attack took place) any more, which effectively pushes the cordon around the main event space outwards
 - The following are now treated as sterile areas: Trinity Way link corridor, underpass and bridge and Victoria Street.
 - There has been substantial investment in the installation of a cutting edge CCTV system which is capable of searching for images of individuals based on description (allowing for real time security operation rather than just a reactive / investigation tool). The number of cameras have been increased and the area covered extended (this now includes Station and approach)
 - New access control systems
 - Extra staff deployed during egress (search team during entry redeployed)