

## OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Dear Emergency Service,

As you'll be aware, the Home Office has worked with the police and security and intelligence agencies over recent years to develop a strong, police-led capability to deal with large-scale firearms attacks in the UK. Good progress has been made to ensure that armed police are trained to respond to attacks of this kind, and fire and ambulance teams are trained and equipped to manage casualties in higher risk environments. This multi-agency capability is deployable from key locations in England, with equivalents in Scotland and Wales, to an incident occurring anywhere in the UK.

We exercise the response frequently and keep our preparedness under constant review. This is especially important while the threat in the UK from international terrorism is categorised as SEVERE by the Joint Terrorist Analysis Centre, and given the terrorist firearms attacks in a number of Western countries over the last year. **We need your support to examine the capability, capacity and arrangements in place to respond to a Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack (MTFA) across the emergency services in England, Wales and Scotland.**

We are using a standard method developed by the Cabinet Office and already used on other resilience capabilities. The method considers all elements that deliver the emergency service response, including resources, information, personnel, equipment, policies, training, legislation and infrastructure. This also looks at decisions and processes at all levels, including operational, tactical and strategic.

In order to manage the scale of this work, we have opted to split it into phases. Phase one (this phase) will consider the initial stages ("modules") of an MTFA response, which cover identifying that an MTFA is taking place, deploying resources, assessing the scene and taking initial decisions to act (see annex A for more detail on the specific modules covered). The second phase will explore modules related to resolving the incident. This aspect is likely to commence after April 2016 and we will be in touch to provide more details closer to the time.

### Guidance Notes

In order to capture all crucial information, we have developed a **questionnaire** (Annex C) which we ask that you complete. It asks what capability, capacity and arrangements are in place and where they need to be improved.

To support the questionnaire, we have also provided written **scenario(s)** which describe a hypothetical MTFA attack (Annex B). These scenarios should be used to frame your answers – that is, you need to outline what capability, capacity and arrangements are in place (and what more or different would be needed) to respond to the incidents in the scenarios. You will only see the scenario(s) relevant to your region, although some areas/regions may have to answer the questionnaire twice for separate scenarios.

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