

News story: Public ACT following call from Counter Terror police

The news comes as one of the UK's most senior counter terrorism officers, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi, told an audience of security industry experts today that their role in protecting the public is more vital than ever.

Most of the concerns raised by the public as a result of the Action Counters Terrorism, or ACT, initiative turned out to be nothing to cause any alarm. However, a crucial number contained important pieces of information that resulted in further action from police – information that might otherwise have been missed.

A significant number of the calls were made following the Westminster attack.

DAC D'Orsi, who is the National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Protective Security, revealed the figures to an audience attending the annual CT Expo at London Olympia. She also told delegates the police aimed to increase its use of the National Barrier Asset – temporary protective structures – during short term summer events that attract large crowds.

"The increased response from the general public and from professionals whose job it is to keep people safe within crowded places, has been really heartening," she says.

"But, as we have seen very recently here in London, we can not afford to stand still. We need to exploit every possible way of keeping people safe – and do all we can to keep everyone vigilant.

"We are working very closely with security managers in busy shopping centres, transport hubs and entertainment venues. The fact that record numbers are attending this event shows the desire to do more.

"Whether it is in business communities or local communities, we need to encourage everyone to keep contributing because, sadly, terrorism is a growing and increasingly complex threat."

CT policing is promoting the National Barrier Asset (NBA) at the two-day Expo. This is a unique unit within world policing that manages, with the help of expert technicians, protective barriers that can be deployed by any of the England and Wales Home Office forces.

Some of the NBA equipment is placed around Parliament and is likely to have saved more people from Khalid Masood's devastating drive along Westminster bridge and around Parliament.

The ACT campaign was launched eight weeks ago. In addition to the 3000 calls, there has also been 300 referrals regarding online extremist material and 850,000 have watched the ACT films. The 'Code Severe' podcast – the first

ever podcast from police – reached number two in the charts.

Full information about the campaign, and how to contact police with concerns, can be found at gov.uk/ACT.

The Tories are planning another targeted attack on white van men and women

Patrick O’Flynn, the UKIP Economics spokesman, has today warned that the Tories are likely to hit the self employed with hikes in National Insurance.



Mr O’Flynn demanded that the Chancellor, Philip Hammond protect the lifeblood of our economy, the self employed strivers.

“First, he could and should explicitly rule out unleashing a new national insurance raid on the self-employed. The pernicious measure that he set out in his Budget, and that UKIP vehemently opposed, would have hit 2.5 million workers, 1.6 million of whom are basic rate income tax payers.

“It would have cost them an average of £240 a year each. When Mr Hammond withdrew it, he did so only because it contravened the terms of the 2015 Tory manifesto which will of course falls after this election. He said he still thought that hiking NI on the self-employed was “the right approach”.

Press release: Ransomware threat – keep your charity safe

The Charity Commission, the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, is issuing this alert to charities as regulatory advice under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Charities could be at risk and are urged to be vigilant.

Over 200,000 organisations, including the National Health Service (NHS), in 150 countries have been affected by a recent ransomware attack. The vulnerabilities exploited by the hackers are the same for charities as they are for individuals, public or private sector organisations.

The Charity Commission encourages all charities to follow protection advice recently issued by the City of London Police and National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC).

Key protection messages:

- install system updates on all devices as soon as they become available
- install anti-virus software on all devices and keep it updated
- create regular backups of your important/business critical files to a device that is not left connected to your network, as any malware infection could be spread to that too
- do not meet any stated demands and pay a ransom – this may be requested via Bitcoins (a form of digital or ‘crypto’ currency)

National Cyber Security Centre technical guidance includes specific software patches to use that will prevent infected computers on your network from becoming infected with the “WannaCry” Ransomware.

Additional in-depth technical guidance on how to protect your organisation from ransomware can also be found on the [NCSC website](#).

Phishing/Smishing

Fraudsters may exploit this high profile incident and use it as part of phishing/smishing (SMS phishing) campaigns. Charities are urged to be cautious if they receive any unsolicited communications from the NHS.

The protect advice is:

- any email address can be spoofed – do not open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive, and never respond to emails that ask for personal/charity information or financial details
- the sender’s name and number in a text message can be spoofed – so even if the message appears to be from an organisation you know of, continue to exercise caution, particularly if the texts are asking you to click on a link or call a number

How to report

If you think your charity has fallen victim to cyber-attack, you should report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting [ActionFraud](#).

Trustees are advised to also report suspected or known fraud incidents to the Commission by emailing RSI@charitycommission.gsi.gov.uk

Serious incident reporting helps the Commission to gauge the volume and

impact of incidents within charities and to understand the risks facing the sector as a whole.

Harvey Grenville, Head of Investigations and Enforcement at the Charity Commission said:

Charities need to be aware of the imminent danger posed by ransomware threats and take appropriate steps to protect their charity from cyber-attack – a charity's valuable assets and good reputation can be put at risk from these dangerous scams.

I urge all charities, if they suspect they may have fallen victim to cyber fraud, to report it immediately to Action Fraud and to the Commission, under its serious incident reporting regime.

You can visit [Charities against fraud](#) for advice and top tips on how to protect your charity against cyber-fraud.

Ends.

Notes to editors

The Charity Commission is the independent registrar and regulator of charities in England and Wales.

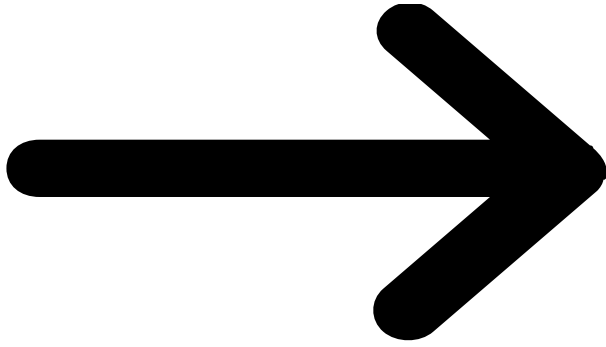
We act in the public's interest, to ensure that:

- charities know what they have to do
- the public know what charities do
- charities are held to account

[Jackson Carlaw: Sturgeon's Brexit games must stop](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- Jackson Carlaw: Sturgeon's Brexit games must stop

15 May 2017



The Scottish Conservatives have accused Nicola Sturgeon of “playing political games” with Brexit.

The SNP leader said she wanted the Scottish Government to be “at the top table in Brexit negotiations.”

At the same time, she said she wanted to strengthen her hand as she seeks to impose a second, unwanted independence referendum on Scotland.

Scottish Conservative deputy leader Jackson Carlaw said:

“The only conclusion to be reached from this is that Nicola Sturgeon has now gone entirely through the looking glass.

“Let’s be clear about what she says she now wants.

“She says she wants to decide how Brexit is designed for the whole of the UK – even though SNP Ministers want that deal to fail.

“At the same time, she also wants to impose an independence referendum campaign on Scotland to try and split the UK in two.

“It is a ridiculous position to take.

“The SNP is in a complete shambles on independence and Europe, and the cracks are now beginning to show.

“Nicola Sturgeon should stop the political games, drop her plan for an unwanted second referendum and seek to make Brexit work for all of us.

“If re-elected, a Conservative UK Government will get on with the job of delivering the best Brexit deal for all of us in the UK, including Scotland.”

Giving evidence to a Holyrood committee last week, Nicola Sturgeon’s Brexit minister, Michael Russell, predicted talks to leave the EU would fail, paving the way for independence.

Scottish Conservatives the only party of the union after ex-Lib Dem cllr pledges support

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- Scottish Conservatives the only party of the union after ex-Lib Dem cllr pledges support

15 May 2017



A former Liberal Democrat councillor in Scotland's capital city has backed the Conservatives, adding "something of a revolution" is building under leader Ruth Davidson.

Alastair Shields, who represented the Lib Dems in Edinburgh's Almond ward last term, said he would now campaign for the Scottish Conservatives in Edinburgh West.

He said the party was "ticking both boxes" when it came to respecting the results of the independence and EU referendums, and "fighting hardest for the centre ground".

Mr Shields is the latest former Labour or Liberal Democrat member to switch to the Scottish Conservatives ahead of next month's election.

Pledging to get his "canvassing shoes on", he said:

"In Edinburgh West, the Scottish Conservatives appeal to the electorate because they spend more time talking about their own campaign pledges and the potential of their candidates.

"They put across a simple message: we will deliver, vote for us.

"It feels like something of a revolution is developing in Scotland. Ruth Davidson puts people and communities at the top of the agenda, leaving talk of independence behind. We've had that discussion and the Scottish people rejected it. Let's move on."

Scottish Conservative Edinburgh West candidate Sandy Batho said:

"Alastair is one of many former Labour and Lib Dem members switching their support to the Scottish Conservatives.

"That's because people want to see a party which will fight the SNP in standing up for Scotland's place in the UK, and respect last year's Brexit vote too.

"All over the country the party is making strides, and it's abundantly clear we are the only ones capable of standing up to the SNP and its divisive drive for another independence referendum."

Below are Mr Shields' remarks in full:

"For me, this election is mostly about which party is fighting hardest for the centre ground and upholding democracy at a time where it constantly appears to be challenged. Right now, the Conservatives are ticking both of these boxes leaps and bounds above the others."

"I'm not a Brexiteer, I voted Remain. I don't think anyone in the country is under any doubt the process will be tough in the years ahead and so much is still unknown. But I appreciate that leaving the EU was the greater choice of the British people and that must be respected. I accept Brexit and believe the Conservatives, under the leadership of Theresa May, stand to represent many people across the country with the same mindset."

"In Edinburgh West, the Scottish Conservatives appeal to the electorate because they spend more time talking about their own campaign pledges and the potential of their candidates. They put across a simple message: We will deliver, vote for us."

"I am looking forward to getting my canvassing shoes on for the Conservatives during this campaign. I last helped them as a student and it feels like something of a revolution is developing in Scotland."