

## Information for Registered Firearms Dealers

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since August 2014 the threat from international terrorism towards the UK has been assessed as **SEVERE**, meaning an attack is highly likely. This threat has recently been borne out by the tragic events in Westminster on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. Traditionally, when we think of terrorism and terrorist attacks we also think of explosive devices. However, as highlighted in the Westminster incident and a number of attacks across Europe, individuals and groups inspired by Islamist extremism have adopted a variety of attack methods.

In recent years these have included using a vehicle as a weapon, knives and **firearms**, often coveted by extremists for their simple application, ease of access and reliability. These attack methods have been specifically outlined and encouraged in a variety of extremist publications, most notably on the internet.

The most recent edition of one such propaganda publication was released on **4<sup>th</sup> May 2017** and included suggestions on how to obtain a firearm.

The article acknowledged the difficulties of obtaining a firearm in the UK, due to strict legislation and control. However, it did suggest **possible acquisition methods**. One of these suggestions included firearms suppliers/stores, by breaking in or forcefully obtaining the keys from the owner as they leave the premises (this included conducting reconnaissance).

Although these acquisition methods have been highlighted in extremist propaganda it is important to note that **this does not mean it will result in actual incidents** or an imminent threat to your safety. But as with the generic terrorist threat, we must all be vigilant, both in our private lives and at work. As always, we ask you to remain 'alert, not alarmed'.

As you go about your daily work routines, please ensure you employ your security procedures while being conscious of those around you and of any suspicious behaviour or signs of hostile reconnaissance. Signs could include people loitering who don't appear to have a legitimate purpose, people taking an unusual or excessive interest in the layout of a building and taking photos or asking about business routines or practices.

If you identify any person or behaviour which concerns you then do not hesitate to contact the police on **999** in cases of emergency or, if non-urgent via the anti-terrorism hotline **0800 789 321**.

Yours faithfully,

Dave Orford,

NPCC lead for Firearms Licensing