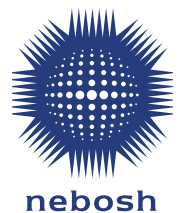


Protecting premises and events from terrorism in the UK

A course book for the NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Standard Duty Premises from Terrorism and the NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Enhanced Duty Premises and Events from Terrorism



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Guide to using this book as part of a taught course

This course book is designed to support both the NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Standard Duty Premises from Terrorism (PTS) and the NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Enhanced Duty Premises and Events from Terrorism (PTE).

The additional obligations for enhanced duty premises and events mean that there is additional content relevant to the PTE certificate. The tables that follow provide a summary of the syllabus content for each qualification and the relevant chapter where that content can be found in this book. This information is also listed at the beginning of each chapter, along with the relevant learning outcomes.

Note for learners studying the NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Standard Duty Premises from Terrorism: the relevant chapters for this qualification are not sequential. Please refer to the table below and the introductions to each chapter to determine whether a chapter is relevant to your studies.

Syllabus mapping for NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Standard Duty Premises from Terrorism

Element		Chapter
1	The nature of terrorism and the legal framework	1
2	Identifying and monitoring potential threats and vulnerabilities	2
3	Understanding terrorist threats and vulnerabilities	3
4	Implementing public protection procedures	4
5	Developing a strong security culture	8

Syllabus mapping for NEBOSH National Certificate in Protecting Enhanced Duty Premises and Events from Terrorism

Element		Chapter
1	The nature of terrorism and the legal framework	1
2	Identifying and monitoring potential threats and vulnerabilities	2
3	Understanding terrorist threats and vulnerabilities	3
4	Implementing public protection procedures	4
5	Implementing public protection measures	5
6	Documenting compliance with the 2025 Act	6
7	Business continuity and recovery	7
8	Developing a strong security culture	8

1.1 What constitutes terrorism under UK law and common motivating factors

1.1.1 The definition of terrorism under section 1 of the Terrorism Act 2000

In the UK, terrorism is defined in the Terrorism Act 2000 as the threat or use of specific actions to influence the government or intimidate the public with the purpose of advancing political, religious, racial or ideological aims. The actions are:

- serious violence against a person;
- serious damage to property;
- endangering a person's life (other than that of the person committing the action);
- creating a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public; and
- action designed to seriously interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system.

The use or threat of action for the purpose of advancing political, religious, racial or ideological aims which involves the use of firearms or explosives is terrorism, regardless of whether the action is designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public.



Concept of an ideology

A terrorist ideology is a set of beliefs, principles or objectives held by an individual person or group of people. Attempts may be made by that individual or group to instil that ideology in others to radicalise them towards becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.¹

1.1.2 Motivating factors behind terrorism

Terrorism is not linked to one single belief or group. Different ideologies can drive individuals or groups to commit violent acts. Examples include:

- **Ethno-nationalist and separatist causes:** these are groups motivated by territorial or ethnic independence, such as the IRA in Northern Ireland, the Tamil Tigers (Sri Lanka), Chechen separatists (Russia), Khalistan movement (India) and the Uyghur separatist groups (China).
- **Extreme right-wing ideologies:** this includes beliefs such as white supremacism, neo-Nazism, xenophobic anti-immigration and anti-minority ideologies. These ideologies often target groups such as ethnic minorities, religious communities, LGBTQ+ people or those seen as 'different'.

Fixed seating

Venues or events with fixed seating, such as cinemas, restaurants and theatres, should determine their total by calculating the maximum number of seats plus staff. For example, a restaurant with 450 seats and 30 staff would have a total of 480.

Tickets or pre-registration

If an event or venue normally uses ticket sales or registration numbers to organise their activities, the expected attendance could be calculated based on the maximum number of tickets made available and the number of tickets that have been sold, plus staff. For example, 850 tickets + 50 workers = 900 total.

Legal or operational restrictions

Organisations should also be aware that some premises may have a maximum attendance that is part of an entertainment or premises licence, or the organiser/operator may have a policy of limiting ticket sales or only allowing a fixed number of attendees at any one time (staggered entry times) to ensure a good quality customer experience.

1.4 Responsible persons and duties under the 2025 Act

1.4.1 Identifying persons responsible for qualifying premises and qualifying events

The concept of the person responsible for qualifying premises and events is defined in the 2025 Act. The responsible person for qualifying premises is the person who has control of the premises in connection with their use. The responsible person is usually the premises operator, so a tenant leasing a building for retail use and being in control for that use, would be the responsible person.

Many premises do not fall under the control of a single entity. Instead, responsibility may be shared across several organisations or individuals, creating potential for uncertainty or 'grey areas' in the application of security measures. To address this, the 2025 Act places clear legal duties on all parties involved. The responsible persons have a legal duty to co-ordinate and co-operate with each other with clear communication and planning to avoid gaps or confusion in responsibility.

4.3 Effective internal and external communication planning

4.3.1 The importance of clear, timely and controlled communication during an incident

The 2025 Act requires qualifying premises and qualifying events to put in place communication procedures to alert people to the danger. Organisations must plan how they are going to communicate effectively during a terrorist threat. This must include internal and external communication for workers and anyone attending the premises or event. It is important that clear, accurate and timely information is provided to everyone on site about the public protection measures should these be activated. Where applicable, workers must be trained to use public address systems. Signage or direct verbal instructions should inform people of what is happening and what actions they should take. Clear communication reduces panic and assists those who are unfamiliar with the premises or emergency procedures.

4.3.2 Inclusion of communication processes in training exercises and scenario exercises

Worker training should focus on ensuring everyone is aware of the protection procedures, including exit routes, dispersal procedures, lockdown procedures and emergency response. Training should include scenario-based exercises simulating different attack types and should cover how communication will occur during an incident, key roles and the responsibilities that all workers will have. All training should include any stakeholders from shared areas and neighbours, to ensure clear planning and information sharing.

4.3.3 External communication requirements

Those responsible for qualifying premises and qualifying events should also communicate externally, as required. This includes notifying the emergency services and neighbouring premises or tenants.

Notifying emergency services

Emergency services must be notified as soon as an incident is identified that poses a threat to life, health, property or the environment. The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) must include a clear procedure for when and how to notify emergency services. This includes details of the roles and responsibilities (who is responsible for calling the emergency services) and the contact information for all relevant emergency services (for example, police, fire, ambulance and poison control).



The information conveyed to emergency services in the event of an attack should be clear, concise and structured using the M/ETHANE format where possible:

- M** Major incident declared (if confirmed or suspected)
- E** Exact location of the incident
- T** Type of incident (for example, armed assault, stabbing, vehicle attack)
- H** Hazards present or potential
- A** Access routes that are safe or blocked
- N** Number and type of casualties
- E** Emergency services present or required

M	Major incident
E	Exact location
T	Type of incident
H	Hazards
A	Access
N	Number of casualties
E	Emergency services

Figure 7: The M/ETHANE model as illustrated by JSEIP²

Improvised explosive device/vehicle-borne improvised explosive device: vehicle exclusion zones, bag search protocols, suspicious item guidance

Mitigating the risk from improvised explosive devices (IEDs) requires layered controls combining vigilance, restricted access and rapid communication. Vehicle exclusion zones should be established around high-risk premises, with entry limited to authorised vehicles subject to screening and verification. Visible deterrents, such as security presence and signage, help disrupt hostile intent and reassure the public. Workers must be trained to identify and report suspicious packages, vehicles or behaviour without delay.

Bag and vehicle searches should be conducted by trained personnel using approved methods. Any suspicious item should not be touched, moved or approached unnecessarily. The discovery of a suspect device must trigger immediate notification to security personnel, followed by a calm and co-ordinated evacuation. Communication