



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland

Improving Policing across Scotland

27 June 2014

PRESS RELEASE

HMICS Publish Thematic Review of CONTEST Prepare 2013

Scotland's new single police service is equipped to respond effectively to, and recover from, a terrorist incident according to the findings of a report published today.

The HMICS report Thematic Review of CONTEST Prepare 2013 analysed the findings of previously published reports looking at counter-terrorism capacity in Scotland prior to reform, and assessed them against new approaches introduced by Police Scotland from April last year.

The findings highlighted that governance arrangements for counter-terrorism had been improved since Police Scotland was established, and that relationships between the new single service and partner agencies were positive. HMICS said it was clear the single service was prepared for major incidents, and made a number of recommendations to further strengthen preparedness.

HM Inspector of Constabulary Scotland, Derek Penman, said: "Following our scrutiny work it is our assessment that Police Scotland, working with others, is prepared to respond to and recover from a terrorist incident.

"HMICS is satisfied that all the relevant learning from our previous CONTEST thematic inspections has been taken forward and discharged. There are no outstanding recommendations for Police Scotland relating to the policing structure prior to reform.

"Scotland's emergency services, along with local and regional resilience partnership structures, have successfully tested their response to major incidents, and how to manage the consequences. This has taken place against the upcoming Commonwealth Games and Ryder Cup, and planning continues at pace for those events with an emphasis on delivering a safe, secure and peaceful Games."

NOTES TO EDITORS

The HMICS Thematic CONTEST Review reviewed progress on recommendations made in previous HMICS CONTEST inspection reports – PREVENT which was published in 2008 and PREPARE, published in 2011. The HMICS review also assessed the preparedness of Police Scotland to respond to and recover from a terrorist incident, analysing desk procedures and conducting interviews with police officers and staff at various levels of seniority.

The HMICS Thematic Review of CONTEST Prepare 2013 is available to download at the HMICS website www.hmics.org

To arrange an interview with HM Inspector of Constabulary Scotland, Mr Derek Penman QPM, or to request a photograph, please contact:

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KEY FINDINGS

We are satisfied that of the original eight CONTEST Prevent (2008) recommendations; all eight are now considered closed and discharged.

We are satisfied that of the original seven CONTEST Prepare (2011) recommendations; all seven are now considered closed and discharged.

We found that post reform, the CONTEST landscape is more consistent across policing in Scotland compared with previous legacy structures and the foundations are in place for the continued development of CONTEST.

We recognised the positive partnership working between Police Scotland and other organisations and agencies in developing the response and recovery from a terrorist event.

We recognised productive working such as the establishment of a single Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism Unit (OCCTU), the establishment of a Single Point of Assessment (SPOA), the use of counter-terrorism skills champions and the multi-agency Counter Terrorism Organisational Learning and Development (OLD) Group to share lessons learned from incidents and reviews.

We are reassured by the new governance structures established in relation to CONTEST and with the introduction of a new national multi-agency counter-terrorism implementation plan there is clear direction and governance for the policing delivery of CONTEST.

We assess that Police Scotland, working with others, is prepared to respond to and recover from a terrorist incident.