

JAOC INTELLIGENCE DOSSIER

POLICE OPERATIONAL POSTURE & TERRORISM SITUATION

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1. Executive Summary

This document sets out clearly what the public can expect to see from police, why measures are in place, and what changes may happen if the threat level alters. It also records confirmed terrorism■related arrests and proceedings in Scotland over the last 12 months.

Key message: Measures are precautionary and proportionate. There is no specific intelligence pointing to an imminent attack in Scotland. The public should be alert, not alarmed.

2. Threat Levels & Operational Rules

Level	Definition	Likely Police Posture
SEVERE	Attack is highly likely	Enhanced visible security; armed/Servator patrols; major event plans active
SUBSTANTIAL	Attack is likely	Posture reviewed; may reduce surge numbers but not automatically remove visible measures

Important facts:

- Threat level is guidance, not an automatic on/off switch.
- Final decision on deployment rests with Police Scotland Chief Constable and senior command.
- Major events like the Edinburgh Festival keep enhanced security regardless of level.
- Project Servator is now permanent national capability, not just for Severe.

If level drops from Severe → Substantial:

- Visible armed presence will likely be scaled back or made less frequent.
- It will not disappear completely while the Festival runs.
- Servator patrols and enhanced checks will continue in some form.

- Police will review posture but not cancel all measures instantly.

3. Project Servator – Background & Success

What it is:

- A proven policing tactic combining high visibility, unpredictable deployments with plain clothes, dogs, armed units and technology.
- Designed to disrupt hostile reconnaissance and planning, while reassuring the public.
- Used successfully across Scotland at major events including COP26, The Open and Commonwealth Games.

Reported outcomes:

- Disrupted scouting and planning activity.
- Increased arrests and seizures of weapons, knives and drugs.
- Higher quality intelligence gathered from public and businesses.
- Improved community vigilance and reporting of suspicious activity.

Why now, not in 2019:

- 2019: Guidance favoured low profile, rapid response only.
- 2026: Updated national policy favours visible deterrence, proven in trials.
- Final decision taken by Police Scotland senior leadership.

What they cannot prove:

- Police cannot definitively prove an attack was prevented solely because of visible presence.
- Success is measured in detections, intelligence and absence of incident.

4. Terrorism Related Arrests & Proceedings: August 2025 – August 2026

Confirmed public cases only. Sources cited below.

Date	Location	Incident / Charge
15 Jul 2025	Edinburgh (Crewe Road North)	Three women (aged 31, 34, 42) arrested and charged under the Terrorism Act 2000 after a van was driven into the perimeter fence of Leonardo UK premises. Counter Terrorism Unit led investigation.
21 Aug 2025	Greenock (Inverclyde)	17-year-old male sentenced at the High Court in Glasgow to an extended sentence (10 years' detention, 8 years' extended licence) after pleading guilty to terrorism offences. He had planned to set fire to Inverclyde Muslim Centre.

19 Jun 2026	Edinburgh	36■year■old man charged in connection with multiple violent incidents across Edinburgh, including five counts of attempted murder aggravated by reason of having a terrorist connection.
10 Jul 2026	Edinburgh Airport	53■year■old man stopped under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. Electronic devices seized. No arrest made. Subject released pending further enquiry.

Official position:

- Police Scotland states there is currently no specific threat intelligence for Scotland.
- Statistics are published quarterly by Counter■Terrorism Policing.

5. What The Public Can Expect To See

- Uniformed and armed officers on patrol in city centre and Festival areas.
- Project Servator teams: unpredictable deployments including dogs, vehicles and plain■clothes officers.
- Increased checks at transport hubs and event entry points.
- No fixed pattern – this is intentional to disrupt planning.

6. Guidance For Public

- **Be alert, not alarmed.**
- Report anything suspicious:
 - Emergency: **999**
 - Non■urgent: **101**
 - Confidential Anti■Terrorist Hotline: **0800 789 321**
- You can ask officers what they are doing – they will explain as far as possible.

7. Recommendations

- Continue monitoring official updates from Police Scotland and JTAC.
- Publish this guidance to help people understand what they see and why.
- Distinguish clearly between precautionary measures and specific imminent danger.
- Maintain awareness of both security posture and local community impacts.

Conclusion

Current measures represent a shift to visible deterrence, not necessarily a sign of new or specific danger locally. If the threat level drops, security will be reviewed but will not be turned off instantly, especially while major events continue.

Sources & References

The incidents recorded in Section 4 are drawn from the following verified open sources:

1. Police Scotland – 'Three women charged under the Terrorism Act 2000' (15 July 2025). <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2025/july/three-women-charged-under-the-terrorism-act-2000/>
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3. Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service – 'Youth who plotted to set fire to Muslim centre in act of terrorism given extended 18-year sentence' (21 August 2025). <https://www.copfs.gov.uk/about-copfs/news/youth-who-plotted-to-set-fire-to-muslim-centre-in-act-of-terrorism-given-extended-18-year-sentence/>
4. Judiciary of Scotland – HMA v AB, sentencing opinion, Lord Arthurson (21 August 2025). <https://judiciary.scot/home/sentences-judgments/sentences-and-opinions/2025/08/21/hma-v-ab>
5. Police Scotland – 'Man charged following incidents in Edinburgh – Friday, 19 June 2026' (19 June 2026). <https://www.scotland.police.uk/what-s-happening/news/2026/june/man-charged-following-incidents-in-edinburgh-friday-19-june-2026/>
6. The Straits Times – 'Man charged over suspected anti-Muslim attacks in Edinburgh that injured five' (21 June 2026). <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/europe/uk-counter-terror-officers-probe-suspected-anti-muslim-attacks-in-edinburgh-that-injured-five>
7. Edinburgh News – 'Man stopped and interrogated under Terrorism Act at Edinburgh Airport' (10 July 2026). <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/man-stopped-and-interrogated-under-terrorism-act-at-edinburgh-airport-8790768>
8. The Herald – 'Man detained at Edinburgh Airport under terror act' (10 July 2026). <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/26271790.man-detained-edinburgh-airport-terror-act/>
9. Counter Terrorism Policing Scotland – official guidance and quarterly statistics. <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/scotland/>

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