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By email to Candidates



ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE
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Dear Candidate

As the Police Scotland lead for the forthcoming Scottish Parliament Election on 6 May 2021, I would like to highlight a range of security advice and associated good practice that may be of benefit to you as a candidate.

As you will be aware that the UK national threat level is currently SUBSTANTIAL, meaning an attack is likely. There are extremist groups who oppose democracy and therefore it is possible that any election may become a target for attack. That said, I would like to reassure you that I am not aware of any specific threat to this election or to any candidate standing in Scotland.

Nevertheless, I thought it may be helpful to highlight the undernoted range of security advice and other associated good practice to you and your staff during this election campaign.

The first attached document, Guidance for Election Candidates in Scotland, was compiled in conjunction with the Electoral Commission and outlines behaviour which candidates may experience. Some of this behaviour may be considered criminal conduct but, again, I would reassure you that historically the number of crimes reported by candidates is very low.

The second attached document, Protect Yourself – A Guide to Personal Security, has been produced by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and covers a wide range of security advice, including physical and online safety. The NaCTSO website itself contains a variety of protective security guidance including any new developments affecting UK security. It can be found at www.gov.uk/nactso.

Further, I would like to highlight the below sources of safety advice which are available online.

Guidance for Individuals in Politics

This has been produced by the National Cyber Security Council for people working in political life, including elected representatives, candidates, activists, and staffers. It provides information about common cyber-attacks used against those working in politics, and suggests preventative

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measures that should reduce the likelihood of you becoming a victim. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-individuals-in-politics>. Further online safety advice is available at www.getsafeonline.org.

Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Suite of Products

The ACT Suite of Products, designed by NaCTSO, is aimed at raising awareness and capability of counter terrorism measures. The suite includes a variety of training packages including ACT eLearning. This is an entry level, interactive product designed to provide guidance to help mitigate against current terrorist methodology, information on how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident. It is made up of seven modules that take a few minutes each to complete. You can register at <https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>.

Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI)

The CPNI website includes a wide range of personal security guidance. It can be found at <http://www.cpni.gov.uk>.

Safety on the Doorstep

To assist with safe campaigning, advice is contained at <https://www.suzylamplugh.org/staying-safe-on-the-doorstep>.

As I stated above, I am not aware of any specific threat in relation to this election or any candidate standing in Scotland. If you have any specific safety concerns please contact your local police station or dial 101. As always, should you feel that an incident necessitates an immediate police response please contact us by calling 999.

I trust you will find this to be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Williams
Assistant Chief Constable
Operational Support.

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