

To Deans, HoFAs, HOSs, Directors of Research Institutes
From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services
Date 5 November 2014
cc Mr W Spinks, Prof N Thakker, Dr D Barker, Dr M Hampar, School Safety Advisors,
Safety Representatives
Reference Safety Circular 3/2014

Travelling abroad – the risk of terrorist attack

Please note that:

- (1) The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have added a general message about the heightened risk of terrorist attack to their advice about foreign travel to *all* countries.
- (2) All work related travel overseas should be subject to risk assessments in the usual way, but recognising current FCO advice, the traveller should keep informed about terrorist activity and warnings. General advice on reducing the risks from terrorism is at <https://www.gov.uk/reduce-your-risk-from-terrorism-while-abroad>

Many of you will be aware already that the FCO has inserted the following text on its travel advice to all countries (with no previous or explicit terrorist treat warning):

“There is a low threat from terrorism, but you should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks which could be in public areas, including those frequented by expatriates and foreign travellers.

There is considered to be a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals, from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.”

The risks of overseas travel should be assessed in the normal way, as described in documents in the Safety Office working off campus toolkit at http://www.healthandsafety.manchester.ac.uk/toolkits/work_off_campus/

The FCO website should be used as the starting point (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>) to assess risks from terrorism. In cases where the terrorist risk is high, further advice can be obtained from specialist security services accessible through the University’s Insurance Office. Please note that there is no change in the University’s arrangements that such risk assessments will need to be signed off at senior level, in accordance with Chapters 24 (Fieldwork) and 16 (Placements).

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