

Ian Hopkins QPM Chief Constable

Joanne Roney Chief Executive Manchester Civic Centre Town Hall Manchester M60 2LA

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Our ref: ADV-DK-028215

20th June 2019

Dear Joanne,

RE: Recommendation for an Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order ("ATTRO")

I write to recommend that Manchester City Council introduce an Anti-Terrorism Traffic Order ("ATTRO") in respect all roads within the Manchester and Salford Inner Ring Road as defined by the area inside the A57(M), Trinity Way, A635 and A665, which excludes the inner ring road itself. Please find attached a map of the area attached as 'appendix 1'.

You will be aware that a detailed business case was presented to both yourself and Salford City Council following a number of meetings taking place advising of our recommendations. Considerable thought and detail has been considered in relation to the recommendation and have been widely circulated with the respective local authorities during the meetings. The consensus between the local authorities and ourselves was that the recommendations should be submitted to you.

The ATTRO is recommended in order to enable the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police to restrict or regulate the movement of pedestrians and vehicles for the purpose of avoiding or reducing, or reducing the likelihood of, danger connected with terrorism to persons or property on or near a road; and or preventing or reducing damage connected with terrorism (as defined by section 1 Terrorism Act 2000). This would be one of a package of measures designed to improve overall public safety, specifically the security of people in crowded places and protect/prevent damage to buildings from a terrorist attack.

There is an acknowledged threat to the United Kingdom from international terrorism, and past experience has demonstrated that this particular threat is acute in intensely crowded places which are situated within our area, iconic sites such as Manchester Town Hall, the Arndale Centre, Piccadilly Gardens and event centres covering music, festivals and high profile conferences and meeting places. This combined with the City's role as a major centre of economic and diverse cultural activity, a very busy transport hub and previous terror attacks and plots against Manchester and the surrounding areas evidence the threat

Manchester is also recognised as a major financial centre and the impact of previous attacks on the Greater Manchester community cannot be ignored. The RAND Corporation published a report stating that the five terror attacks that took place in the United Kingdom in 2017 – at Westminster, Manchester, London Bridge, Finsbury Park and Parson Green – potentially led to a loss in economic output of £3.5 billion.

I consider that the above circumstances meet both the criteria under section 22C (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The latest amendment to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (enacted by the Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Act 2019) waives the requirement to publicise an ATTRO in advance, where in the opinion of a Chief Police Officer, such publicity would undermine the purpose of the order. It is agreed by Greater Manchester Police, Manchester City Council and Salford City Council that, in the interests of transparency and accountability there will be no intention to waive the requirement to publicise the ATTRO.

An ATTRO enables traffic which includes vehicle and/or pedestrians to be regulated (the extreme of which would be to restrict access of a road) for preventative purposes in connection with Counter Terrorism An order will supplement physical security measures in order to preclude vehicles and /or pedestrians from entering or proceeding along a road within the designated area. The ATTRO can only be progressed by way of recommendation from ourselves the police.

The ATTRO which I am recommending would be permanent but of a contingency nature, which would enable an officer of Greater Manchester Police to direct that a provision of the ATTRO restricting or regulating pedestrian or vehicular traffic on a particular road should be commenced, suspended or revived. Greater Manchester Police would make this direction to the extent they considered necessary, informed by security assessment or intelligence of a terrorist threat. If an emergency resulted in the use of the ATTRO this would be authorised by an officer of at least the rank of Inspector and for pre-planned events it would be a senior officer who would be the Gold Commander for any such event.

I will further recommend that wherever possible, at least 7 days' notice of restrictions to be put in place will be provided to the Local Authority in order that such notice may also be provided to those persons likely to be affected by the restrictions. Finally, it is also recommended that any restriction put in place in accordance with the ATTRO will not exceed a period of 48 hours without prior approval from the Chief Officer of Police.

A jointly agreed schedule (from the police and local authority) will also be attached to the ATTRO detailing the specific working/operational arrangements for the implementation of the ATTRO between the police and the local authorities when it arises in both pre-planned and emergency arrangements.

These recommendations ensure that the ATTRO is a proportionate measure used to the minimum extent necessary in order to deal with the likelihood of danger connected with terrorism. The ATTRO provision will be reviewed annually be Greater Manchester police to assess the proportionate use of the power and if it is still necessary.

May I take this opportunity to thank Manchester City Council for its consideration of this ATTRO recommendation, which it is believed will provide us with a further protective measure to keep the City safe from a terrorist threat.

I wait to hear further from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hopkins Chief Constable

