Professional communicators: Your vital role in your organisation's security

As a communications professional, you have a vital role to play in protecting your organisation from a range of threats, including terrorism, criminal activity and unlawful protest.

How can communications help to protect my organisation?

What and how you communicate about your organisation could be the difference between it becoming a target or not.

Small, simple changes can help to protect your organisation, your colleagues and your customers.

See, Check and Notify (SCaN) is a training programme that empowers an organisation's staff to ensure individuals or groups seeking to cause harm are unable to get the information they need to plan their actions.

The programme, which is free and devised by experts from the security services and policing, includes modules specifically aimed at providing communications professionals with the knowledge and skills to help protect their organisation. Just as a CCTV operator or security officer would be trained in other security methods and techniques.

There are two modules aimed at communications professionals:

- **SCaN for Communications Professionals Awareness**

  An awareness briefing delivered by a Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA) or other counter terrorism professionals from your local police force. It lasts for around 90 minutes and is delivered either online or in person, if COVID-19 restrictions allow. The session provides an awareness of the principles of security-minded communications and outlines what small steps you can take now to protect your organisation.

- **SCaN for Communications Professionals Workshop**

  An interactive workshop delivered by security-minded communications experts from the security services and the police. It can be delivered in person over half-a-day (if COVID-19 restrictions allow), or online and split into smaller sections. The workshop provides more detail about how those with hostile intent think and feel and how they carry out their research and attack planning activities. Based on that knowledge, it provides attendees with an opportunity to consider how security-minded communications can be woven into existing plans and what opportunities there may be to promote protective security arrangements at their site or event. It also provides an opportunity to consider crisis planning, share ideas and insight, and network with other communications professionals working in that region who you may work with during a crisis. Workshops are held once a year, or as demand dictates, on a regional basis.

Who is it for?

SCaN for Communications Professionals is suitable for anyone who has responsibility for communicating with an organisation or event's customers in any medium. This can be in-house or agency staff.

What will I learn?

SCaN for Communications Professionals Awareness will enable you to:

- Understand the vital role communications professionals play in protecting an organisation from a range of threats;

- Understand what those who seek to cause an organisation harm are looking for and need to plan their actions;

- Know how to apply a security-minded communications process across a range of channels and opportunities;

- Plan how to help your colleagues and customers protect your organisation;

- Prepare for a major incident or crisis.

What will be asked of me?

No pre-reading is required and you don't need to have any previous experience of security-minded communications to attend.

All we ask is that you attend with a willingness to learn. You may be asked to participate in the session and share your views, experiences and ideas, and there will be opportunities for you to ask questions of the trainer.

How will my organisation benefit?

SCaN is not about spending more money or employing more staff. It's about making simple changes and using the resources you already have more effectively.

Those simple changes can go a long way to ensuring your organisation, colleagues and customers are safe and feel safe, thereby maintaining and enhancing your reputation and profitability.

Find out more

Find out more about SCaN.

To sign up, speak to your organisation's security manager or contact your local Counter Terrorism Security Advisor (CTSA).