

Early years facilities

Terrorism threat to early years facilities

- There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could have the intent to conduct attacks against early years facilities due to the shock value and major media coverage an attack at any such site would receive.¹
- It is highly likely that any terrorist attack conducted against an early years facility in the UK would be conducted by an individual or small cell using a low sophistication methodology. E.g., Bladed or Blunt Force Weapons, Vehicle as a Weapon, Fire as a Weapon.
- There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could have the capability to conduct a high-sophistication attack at an early years facility in the UK. E.g., Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED) or a marauding attack with Firearms. The complicated nature of plotting a high-sophistication terrorist attack makes it highly likely that there will be greater opportunity for UK police and security services to disrupt potential attacks.
- The assessments in this report were made using the PHIA Probability Yardstick, for further information please see the Assessment Methodology [section below](#).

Location based threats to early years facilities in the UK

- It is highly likely that there would be an increased terrorism threat to early years facilities in major cities and those in proximity to iconic sites and/or major transport hubs. There is a realistic possibility that an early years facility located in proximity to iconic sites and/or busy public spaces could be impacted by a Marauding Terrorist Attack in proximity to their site.
- Whilst it is highly likely that there would be an increased terrorism threat to sites located within large urban locations, there is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could seek to conduct an attack against early years facilities that are located in smaller towns or rural areas in the UK due to the lack of other suitable targets in the nearby area.
- There is a realistic possibility that there could be a heightened threat posed to any early years facility that forms part of a larger school facility. For example, there is a realistic possibility that an early years facility could be indirectly impacted by an attack targeting a wider primary school. For further assessment on the terrorism threat posed to schools in the UK, please download our school report.

Previous terrorist incidents related to early years facilities in the UK

- At this time, there have been no previous terrorist attacks against early years facilities in the UK.

Other potential threats to early years facilities in the UK

- There is a realistic possibility that there could be a heightened threat to any early years facility in the UK that educates and/or cares for the children and/or relatives of a high-profile individual. E.g., Terrorist actors could have the intent to target the children of politicians in response to the UK political climate and/or the policies of politicians.
- There is a realistic possibility that there could be a heightened threat posed to early years facilities linked to faith schools and/or institutions with formal links to a religious and/or faith-based organisation in the UK. For example, it is highly likely that individuals adhering to Islamist and Extreme Right-Wing ideologies would have the intent to conduct attacks against individuals attending an early years facility with formal links to the Jewish faith.

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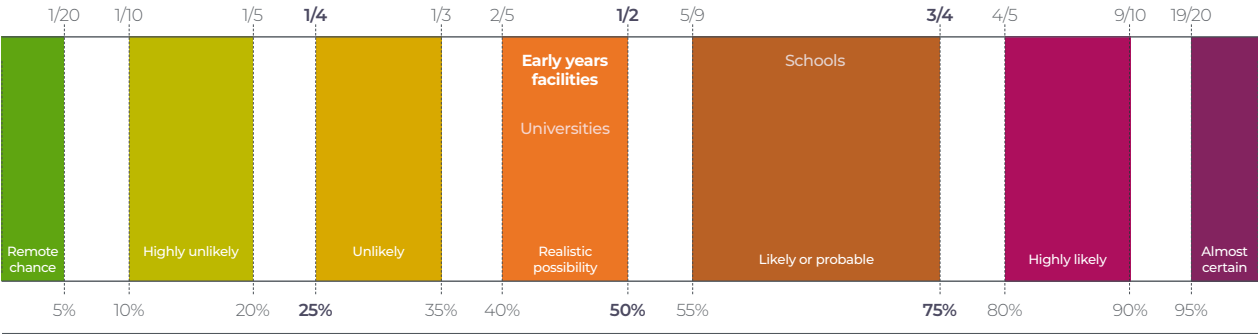
Threat visualisation

The diagram below outlines the intent of terrorist actors in the UK to conduct attacks against early years facilities within the education sector.

Terrorist intent can be defined as the desire and/or determination of an individual to conduct an attack against any given site.

The intent of terrorist actors to conduct an attack against the education sector in the UK is subject to change based on the assessments outlined in this report.

Note: The terrorism threat to any given site is not based solely on intent, but also the capability of terrorist actors in the UK as outlined in this report. Terrorism threat is also mitigated by the UK’s countrywide terrorism risk mitigation infrastructure including both public and private security and safety capabilities.



Assessment Methodology

The assessments made in this report have been made using the Professional Head of Intelligence’s “Probability Yardstick” (above). The Probability Yardstick is a standardised instrument used to provide a professional standard for intelligence assessment.

- **Almost certain:** An event has a greater than 90% chance of occurring.
- **Highly likely:** An event has a 76% to 90% chance of occurring.
- **Likely:** An event has a 55% to 75% chance of occurring.
- **Realistic possibility:** An event has a 40% to 54% chance of occurring.
- **Unlikely:** An event has a 25% to 39% chance of occurring.
- **Highly unlikely:** An event has an 10% to 24% chance of occurring.
- **Remote chance:** An event has a less than 10% chance of occurring.

Time spans

- **Short Term:** 0–6 Months.
- **In the next 12 months.**
- **Medium Term:** 12 months–5 Years.
- **Long Term:** 5+ Years.

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Intelligence cut-off date: 29 April 2024

For more information please contact solutions@poolre.co.uk

Bibliography

1. Early Years Facility is defined in this report as any establishment providing residential or day care for babies and children under the age of five, including both nurseries and pre-schools.

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