

# Hair dressing & beauty salons



## Terrorism threat to hair dressing & beauty salons

- It is highly unlikely that terrorist actors in the UK would have the intent to conduct attacks against hairdressing and beauty salons. Previous terrorist attacks in the UK have demonstrated the intent of terrorist actors to conduct mass-casualty, high-profile attacks. Hairdressing and beauty salons are highly unlikely to be an attractive target for terrorist actors in the UK.
- It is highly likely that any terrorist attack targeting a hairdressing and beauty salon in the UK would be conducted by an individual or small cell using a low sophistication methodology. E.g., Bladed and 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 a hairdressing and beauty salon 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 hair dressing & beauty salons in the UK

- It is likely that there is a heightened terrorist threat to hairdressing and beauty salons in major cities and those in proximity to iconic sites and/or major transport hubs. There is a realistic possibility that hairdressing and beauty salons located in proximity to iconic sites and/or busy public spaces could be impacted by a Marauding Terrorist Attack in proximity to their site.

### Previous terrorist incidents related to hair dressing & beauty salons in the UK and overseas

- At this time, there have been no previous attacks against hairdressing and beauty salons in the UK.
- Terrorist actors have previously demonstrated the intent and capability to conduct attacks against hairdressing and beauty salons globally, including:
  - 2022 France:** On 23 December 2022, an individual named as William M., 69, conducted a marauding firearms attack in a predominantly Kurdish community in Paris. After indiscriminately shooting at members of the public, the gunman proceeded towards a nearby hairdressers and continued to shoot towards staff and customers. There were three fatalities and three others were injured. The perpetrator later admitted to a “pathological” hatred of migrants.<sup>1</sup>
  - 2016 Australia:** On 10 September 2016, Ihsas Khan conducted an Islamist-inspired Bladed Weapons attack in Sydney, Australia. A victim of the attack fled to a nearby hairdressing salon. Khan attempted to smash the locked salon door in order to reach his intended victim, before he was apprehended. There were no fatalities.<sup>2</sup>

### Other potential threats to hair dressing & beauty salons in the UK

- There is a realistic possibility that there could be a heightened threat to hairdressing and beauty salons owned or operated by members of minority communities. For example, an extreme right-wing terrorist could have the intent to conduct an attack against a hairdressing and/or beauty salon associated with a minority community in the UK. E.g., LGBTQIA+, religious minorities, or immigrant population.
- There is a realistic possibility that terrorist actors in the UK could have the intent to target specific high-profile individuals hosted by hairdressing and beauty salons in the UK. The presence of high-profile individuals or major celebrities could lead to an increased threat from individuals with terrorist intent.
- There is a realistic possibility that staff employed at hairdressing and beauty salons could pose an insider threat to hairdressing and beauty salons in the UK. For example, there is a realistic possibility that chemicals and supplies required by hairdressing and beauty businesses could be targeted by terrorist actors seeking to construct an Improvised Explosive Device.
  - E.g., In 2012, Shasta Khan and Mohammed Sajid Khan were sentenced for plotting to conduct a terrorist attack using an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) against Jewish targets in Manchester, UK. A search of the individuals' house revealed a cache of terrorism-related materials, including a beheading video, propaganda glorifying Osama bin Laden, and bomb-making guides. Officers reportedly seized peroxide and bleach, used by Shasta Khan in her hairdressing work, thought to have been intended to construct the IED.<sup>3</sup>

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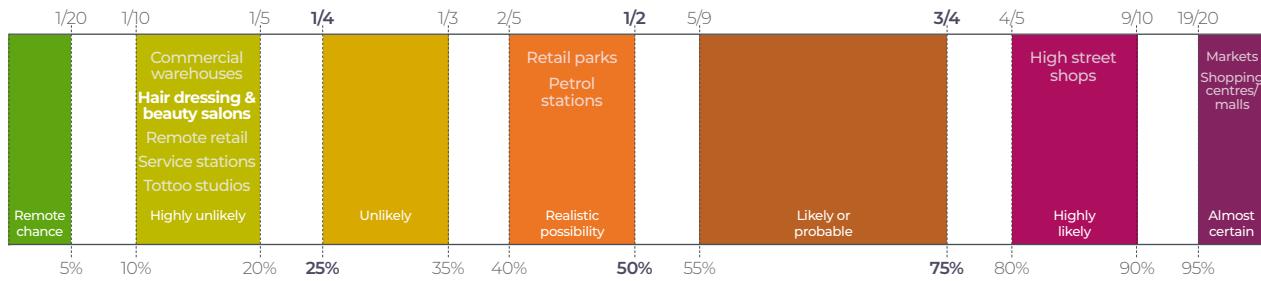
## Threat visualisation

The diagram below outlines the intent of terrorist actors in the UK to conduct attacks against hair dressing and beauty salons within the retail & wholesale 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 retail & wholesale 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: 28 January 2025**

For more information please contact [solutions@poolre.co.uk](mailto:solutions@poolre.co.uk)

## Bibliography

1. Gunman in Paris kills three people in attack on Kurdish community - Reuters;  
Paris shooting: Suspect admits 'pathological' hatred of migrants - BBC News
2. Sydney stabbing: Alleged terror attacker inspired by Islamic State, police say - ABC News  
Ihsas Khan: Minto terrorist guilty of hair salon stabbing - news.com.au  
Ihsas Khan found guilty of stabbing his neighbour in Sydney terror attack - ABC News
3. Oldham wife Shasta Khan guilty of Jewish jihad plan - BBC News  
Oldham Hairdresser Guilty On Terrorism Charge; UK News - Sky News  
Jewish community terrorist attack plan couple jailed - BBC News

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