



3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017

*Dear Local Resident*

I write to you as the Metropolitan Police Gold Commander for what is going to be a very significant event at Southwark Cathedral, on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2017, and one for which I am seeking your support.

This special venue has been chosen for the funeral of Police Constable Keith Palmer who tragically lost his life during the terrorist attack at The Palace of Westminster on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017. At the request of Keith's family and in line with the proud traditions of the Metropolitan Police, this will be a Full Service Funeral with the officer's family, close friends and colleagues in attendance.

Officers are expected to line the streets around the cathedral and will take part in the service as ushers. The details of PC Palmer's funeral are still being arranged, but similar services usually see the attendance of police from across the country. Politicians and senior officers are likely to attend, while a police choir and a bearer party for any coffin, which would be draped with the police service flag, are expected to be involved.

Due to the circumstance surrounding Keith's death, we can expect that many people will wish to attend the location to pay their respects and as such the MPS is planning the policing operation to put in place appropriate, but robust security measures to help keep those attending the ceremony, members of the public and the officers deployed on the operation safe.

Whilst there are no specific known threats to this event, this is the first major ceremonial event since London suffered a terrorist attack and the funeral of a police officer who lost his life as a result of that very terrorist attack. The threat to the UK from international terrorism remains at *Severe*, which means *an attack is highly likely*; the security measures in place, reflect this.

A Security Coordinator has made several recommendations, which will see protective security measures being deployed, including road closures with significant restrictions in place. This is *not* as a result of any specific intelligence relating to this event, but more precautionary measures in response to recent incidents.

As a member of the local community you will see an increased police presence from Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April, and from early on 10<sup>th</sup> April, there will be significant road closures and diversions in the area. These will impact on all activities for much of the day. The exact details of the road closures are still being finalised, but they are likely to affect significantly the areas from London Bridge on the North side to Borough High Street junction with Marshalsea Road/Great Dover Street to the south and Southwark Bridge on the North side to Marshalsea Road to the south.

Tower Bridge will remain open but roads south of the river, to the west are likely to be closed with diversions in place. Blackfriars Bridge will remain open but again, roads south of the river, to the east are likely to be closed with diversions in place for much of the day. It is difficult, at this time, to fully understand the size of this event, and the impact on the local area, but wherever we can minimise disruption we will do so.

We understand the need for businesses to remain open and we will accommodate those needing to gain access through the outer road closures described above. However, it is advisable to carry a form of photographic identification with you at all times. We advise you to provide this guidance to those who may need to access your premises during these key times.

From 0600 on 10<sup>th</sup> April, if you are intending to be on foot in the immediate area surrounding Southwark Cathedral, please carry a form of official identification with you, such as your driving licence building pass or permit, or a letter from your employer, or if a resident, proof of address, such as a driving licence, or a utility bill. This will assist you in moving around the area. However, please be aware that you may be denied entry or diverted at certain times and locations so you should add additional travel time to your planned journey.

The immediate area is described below and provides clear direction regarding vehicular access.

***For the following areas***

- Borough Market footprint
- Borough High street between London Bridge and Talbot Yard
- Bedale Street
- Clink Street
- Kings Head Yard
- London Bridge (south)
- Montague Close including the residents car park behind the cathedral.
- Park Street from Redcross Way to Stoney Street
- Stoney Street
- Southwark Street east of Southwark Bridge
- St Thomas Street from Borough High Street - 100 metres east

**All vehicles must be removed by 0600 10/04/17, else they will be relocated**

***For the following areas***

- Gatehouse Square
- Maiden Lane
- Park street from Redcross Say to Bankside
- Perkins Square
- Pickfords Lane
- Porter Street
- Redcross way
- Thrale street

**Any Vehicles not removed by 6am will be unable to exit until 4pm**

If your business is located within any of the roads listed above and you are expecting deliveries they should arrive before 6am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup>, or be delayed until after 4pm. They will not be facilitated, unless with prior agreement with the MPS Security Coordinator. Depending on the time of the delivery, it may still incur delays.

Public transport routes in and out of London Bridge overground and underground stations should not be affected. Bus routes in and out of London Bridge station are likely to be affected and you should make alternative arrangements if you are planning to use those services between 1100 and 1600.

I do apologise for any inconvenience that these arrangements may cause, but assure you that every effort will be made to minimise the disruption for the least amount of time possible whilst maintaining the dignity of the event and safety and security all those involved. I thank you in advance for your understanding whilst we continue to plan for such an important occasion, and for your support on the day.

If you require any further information please contact your local Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector, James Cole at [james.cole@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.cole@met.pnn.police.uk).

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Craig Haslam", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Chief Superintendent Craig Haslam

Police Gold Commander