



Home Office

Baroness Williams of Trafford  
Minister of State for  
Countering Extremism

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Baroness Hamwee  
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16 May 2019

Dear Sally,

I am writing in response to your question raised in debate on the 7 May regarding the Places of Worship Protective Security Scheme. You asked what is the average size of grants awarded to individual places of worship through this scheme over the last three years.

As you know, the scheme has been in place since 2016. Over the first three years of the scheme, the amount of funding awarded to individual places of worship has ranged from £462.72 - £66,267.51, with the median average grant awarded being around £7450. The median value has been provided as it is more statistically robust than the mean value given the sample size and outliers.

There were also questions about broader safety and security provision. Advice for places of worship is provided by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and can be found on Gov.UK. In particular, NaCTSO have published sector specific protective security advice and guidance for places of worship, to allow them to identify key risks and consider what steps to take. These free to download publications can be found on the NaCTSO website at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>.

The Police ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) e-learning package is available through National Counter Terrorism Security office Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/act-awareness-elearning>. This training only takes about 45 minutes to complete and could help save lives. The police recommend that places of worship and faith institutions should consider this training for their staff, volunteers and parishioners

Security advice particularly focussed on faith communities has also been developed by the Community Security Trust (CST). This advice has been placed on the CST website and is free to download here:

<https://cst.org.uk/public/data/file/f/2/CST%20security%20procedures%20for%20places%20of%20worship.pdf>

Many places of worship will already have well established relationships with their local police, but where further advice is needed they should contact their local police through 101. If there is an immediate threat then dial 999.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the House Library.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', written in a cursive style.

**Baroness Williams of Trafford**