



21 October 2021

**INCIDENT UPDATE**

## Leigh-on-Sea incident update

**Today a man has been charged in connection with the terrorist incident on Friday 15th October which led to the death of MP Sir David Amess. The following statement has been issued this afternoon by the Metropolitan Police's Specialist Operations:**

Assistant Commissioner Specialist Operations Matt Jukes said: "I want to provide you with an update on the investigation into the murder of Sir David Amess MP.

On behalf of everyone involved in counter terrorism and wider policing, I'd like to offer my deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Sir David, who died so tragically last Friday.

Sir David's dedication to his family, his constituents and his community, and his positive impact on the lives of so many, have been abundantly clear since his death.

Specialist officers continue to support Sir David's family. All of our sympathies are with them.

I would also like to recognise the courage and professionalism of officers from Essex Police and paramedics for their response to the incident.

As you know, last Friday Sir David tragically died from serious injuries after being stabbed at a constituency surgery in Leigh-on-Sea. A man was arrested at the scene.

Since then the Met's Counter Terrorism Command has led the investigation.

A large team of detectives has been working around the clock to find out as much as we can about what happened, and why.

That work has included searches of a number of London addresses. Our advanced forensics team has analysed digital devices and carried out a painstaking review of CCTV footage. I also want to thank witnesses and members of the public who have supported the investigation with information.

As a result of all that work, today, we have reached a significant milestone. Following the submission of a file of evidence to the Crown Prosecution Service, charges have been authorised.

Ali Harbi Ali, aged 25 and from north London, has been charged with:

Murder, and the preparation of terrorist acts contrary to Section 5 of the Terrorism Act 2006.

Ali remains in custody and will appear at Westminster Magistrates' Court this afternoon.

We will continue to build our case. If there are members of the public who have further information that might help the investigation, I urge them to come forward.

Every piece of information in investigations like this is important. You will not be wasting our time. Please contact us through the Anti-terrorist Hotline.

It remains the case that no other arrests have been made, and at this time we are not seeking anybody else in relation to this incident.

There has been considerable speculation in the media about the background, history and motivation of the man now charged.

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I understand the interest in these questions and, of course, they form part of our investigation.

However, now charges have been brought we will not be providing further information on any aspects of this case.

And I would strongly urge everyone interested in this case to exercise restraint when commenting on it publically. We all have an interest in ensuring future court proceedings are not prejudiced in any way.

I would also like to reiterate the request made by Sir David's family that their privacy be respected.

I fully understand the significant impact that the attack on Sir David has had on his colleagues in the Houses of Parliament.

We have been working closely with Parliament's own security team and with the Home Office to review existing arrangements for MPs' security, and that work will continue.

Police forces across the country have been working with individual MPs to review their specific arrangements.

Alongside this case, it's important for me to stress that Counter Terrorism officers across the UK - with the security services and other partners - work night and day to bear down on the threat from terrorism.

And our communities play a vital role in these efforts. Every day information given to the police by the public helps our investigations.

If you see or hear something suspicious, trust your instincts and call the police on 0800 789 321, or contact us in confidence online via [www.gov.uk/ACT](https://www.gov.uk/ACT)

In respect of this investigation, although charges have been laid, our work continues. And whilst it does, Sir David's family remain in our thoughts."

As the Home Secretary stated when she addressed the House of Commons on the evening of Wednesday 20th October in connection with MP security the threat level facing MPs is now deemed to be substantial, which means an attack is likely.

This is the same level as the current threat to the United Kingdom as a whole, which remains unchanged. The threat level is constantly reviewed and set by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre and the Security Service (MI5).

We continue to encourage everyone to remain alert, and to report anything that doesn't seem right immediately to police, security or staff.

More information on what to look out for and how to contact police can be found at our Action Counters Terrorism website [www.gov.uk/ACT](https://www.gov.uk/ACT).

Businesses can also sign up for ACT Awareness eLearning. It provides nationally recognised corporate CT guidance to help people better understand, and mitigate against, current terrorist methodology. To register please visit: <https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>

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