



Press Release

For immediate release
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Too many businesses are still ill-prepared for terrorist attack, warns IoD

Too many businesses need to do more to prepare themselves for the possibility of a terrorist attack. An NOP survey of 500 IoD members shows that directors take security issues seriously but that more needs to be done.

The IoD survey showed that directors have adopted a variety of security measures in recent years:

- 72% allocate something to security, with the majority spending between 1-5% of turnover. 20% of members had increased expenditure on security since September 11th 2001.
- 69% routinely check the references and documentation of staff and contractors when recruiting and hiring.
- 52% had carried out a risk assessment to identify possible threats and to assess their vulnerability to attack.
- 48% (242) had taken steps to improve the physical security of buildings, for example, by installing locks on windows and doors, CCTV, alarms and lighting.
- 47% (237) had improved security at access points by introducing passes for staff, swipe card entry systems, systems for booking in visitors, searching bags or hiring more security staff.
- 29% had improved perimeter security, for example, by installing security gates, barriers or fences.
- 17% had improved mail-handling procedures, for instance, by establishing a mailroom away from their premises and training staff in emergency procedures

Commenting on the survey, Richard Wilson, Head of Business Policy, said:

"Managers and owners are concerned with terrorism because of the threat that it poses to employees, to customers and to the viability of their businesses. Our survey shows that directors take the issue of security seriously, but that more needs to be done. 49% of businesses do not have

any contingency plans to help them cope with a terrorist attack and 23% spend virtually nothing on security. In the light of the warnings from the Government and security services all firms should draw up business continuity plans, test them regularly and train staff to act upon them."