

The Expert's Story

ANTI-TERROR expert David Hill is a former Commander of the National Crime Squad. He now works as a consultant for personal security firm red24.

He says: "Public awareness of the threat from terrorism was completely changed by 7/7.

"Prior to that no one believed there would be home-grown terrorists prepared to blow up their own country and people.

"That has changed completely, I see it every day in my job.

"The public are much more ready to ask for travel advice and are much more tuned in to the threat in countries such as Spain.

"They want to know what the latest threat assessment is and what they should do to minimise risk.

"Inquiries to the company have increased 300 per cent since 7/7.

"But I have also noticed greater awareness among the public going about their everyday lives.

"Several times I have seen passengers on the Tube challenge someone, saying 'Is that your rucksack? Then for goodness sake please pick it up and don't leave it lying around.'

"That's a good thing and it's important it continues."