

UK hotels on high terror alert

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BRITAIN is on high alert for a Mumbai-style terrorist attack on a top hotel, Home Secretary Jacqui Smith revealed yesterday. She told MPs that security chiefs have been training staff at major hotels on how to cope with a terror hit.

Ministers, police and security services are urgently reviewing the UK's counter-terrorism plans to beef up protection around hotels and other public buildings.

Appearing before the Commons Home Affairs committee, Ms Smith said the atrocities in Mumbai in November — which claimed nearly 200 lives — had triggered an overhaul of Britain's "protective security arrangements".

She said: "We have taken the opportunity of the review that we have done to accelerate the publication of protective security guidance to both hotels and hotel security professionals and giving them the best advice.

"We have a network of counter-terrorism security advisers who are able to supplement that advice by actually visiting specific venues and delivering training."

However Ms Smith said that she did not want checks to make peoples' lives a misery.

Meanwhile she also faced questions about the arrest of Shadow Immigration Minister Damian Green on suspicion of handling leaked Home Office documents.

She told the committee she would hold a review into the way the arrest in November was handled.

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