

## Background and Context

The bombings in London on 7 July killed 52 people and seriously injured around 50 others. Approximately 800 others suffered minor injuries in the four explosions – three on the London Underground at Edgware Road, Aldgate and Kings Cross/Russell Square, and one on a No. 30 bus at Tavistock Square.

## How the Topic was Handled

In the immediate aftermath of the bombings, the Metropolitan Police, Westminster City Council, and other Government and voluntary agencies established an Assistance Centre. Its purpose was to provide people who had been bereaved, injured, traumatised, or otherwise affected by the incidents with information, advice, practical help and emotional support. Following the bombings in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt later in July, and a number of other incidents overseas after that date, the 7th July Assistance Centre extended its support beyond those affected by the London bombings.

Initially the centre was known as the Family Assistance Centre (FAC), however the name was changed in August 2005 to 7th July Assistance Centre when it became apparent that the name had unintentionally excluded those who did not consider themselves “family”.

In November 2005, the contract for the longer-term 7th July Assistance Centre was awarded by Westminster City Council to Brent Bereavement Services (BBS), who continue to deliver the service today.

At present, the Centre is in contact with around 600 service users, most of them affected by the London bombings.

## Lessons Identified

A number of those involved in the response have produced reports detailing the involvement of, and lessons identified by, their organisation. Of these, the following provide some detail about the response across a number of agencies, and highlight a range of important lessons.

- **[Lessons learned by the 7th July Assistance Centre staff, steering group and partners](#)** [PDF 32 pages, 289KB] - Published in March 2009, the report identifies a number of the lessons learned by the 7 July Assistance Centre
- In June 2006, the London Assembly published a report into London’s response to 7th July. This, as well as follow-up reports, can be viewed at **<http://www.london.gov.uk/who-runs-london/the-london-assembly/publications/all>** [External website].
- In September 2006, the Government published its own document, entitled **[Addressing lessons from the emergency response to the 7 July 2005 London bombings](#)** [External website].
- In the same month, the London Resilience Team published their report into London’s response, entitled **[Looking Back, Moving Forward](#)** [External website].

## Contacts for Further Information

Humanitarian Assistance Unit,  
Department for Culture Media & Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street,  
London,  
SW1Y 5DH  
Tel: 020 7211 6200

## Additional Documents

Further information can be accessed  
at <http://www.7julyassistance.org.uk/> [External website].