



# The surveillance and protection system in the Netherlands

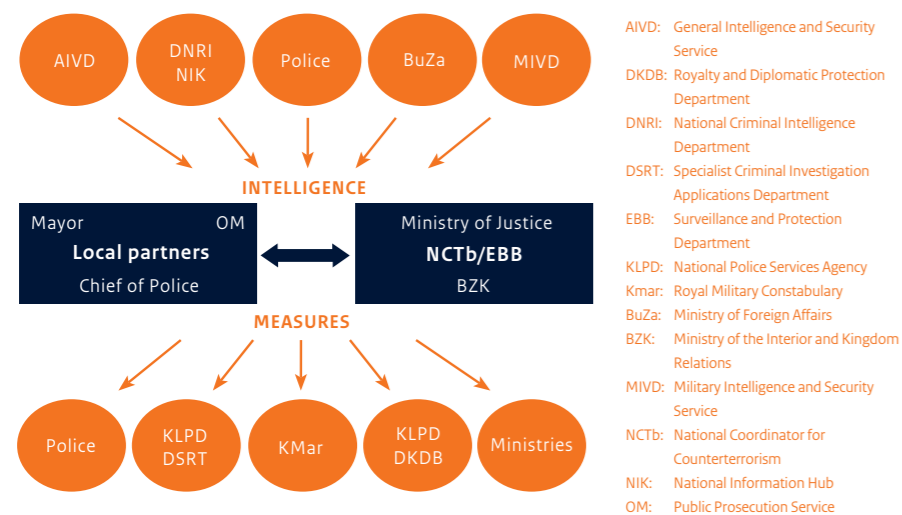
*Protection of persons, property and services*

## The NCTb helps to make the Netherland a safer place to live

The task of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism is to minimise the risk and fear of terrorist attacks in the Netherlands and to take prior measures to limit the potential of terrorist acts. The NCTb is responsible for the central coordination of counterterrorism efforts and ensures that cooperation between all the parties involved is and remains of a high standard.

### Partners in surveillance and protection

Surveillance and protection in the Netherlands involves many partners. The diagram below outlines the partners in intelligence gathering and those responsible for carrying out surveillance and protection measures.



### National coordination

The surveillance and protection system is coordinated nationally by the Surveillance and Protection Department (EBB), which falls within the remit of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (NCTb). Political responsibility for the system lies with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The EBB receives information about threats and risks from the intelligence services. It then collates and assesses this information and makes recommendations on the level of security measure to be taken.

### Implementation by specialists

Security measures are carried out by specialist police organisations, such as the Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department (DKDB) and special units within the regional police forces.



## The surveillance and protection system

Our society seems to be getting used to mounting violence: brawling on the streets, gangland killings in broad daylight, terrorist threats - they're all becoming more common. In response, the Dutch government has stepped up policy on protecting its citizens. This is especially noticeable in the large cities, where we now see police surveillance trailers in front of embassies, police Landrovers, and bodyguards routinely accompanying certain politicians.

In the Netherlands, the surveillance and protection system aims to prevent terrorist and other criminal attacks on persons, property, and services. The system also determines how they are to be protected if a threat occurs. It is managed by the Surveillance and Protection Department of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (NCTb). This leaflet sets out how the system works.

### Primary responsibility rests with individuals and organisations

The government cannot protect everyone against all threats. Surveillance and protection are firstly the responsibility of the persons and organisations affected. As citizens, we are all responsible for ensuring that we have good locks and, if necessary, a burglar alarm.

Secondly, employers are responsible for protecting their employees. They must take appropriate security measures to prevent danger to persons and property. If necessary, for instance, an employer should engage a private security firm. But if a threat is so serious that persons or organisations cannot be expected to deal with it, they must have recourse to protection from the authorities.

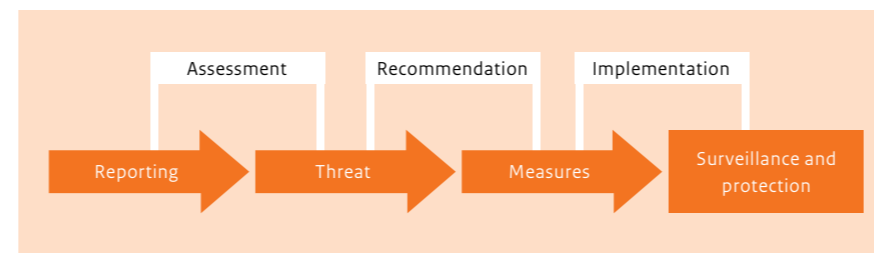
### When and how do threats occur?

This depends on the situation. A threat may be made by email or telephone, in which case the person or organisation affected will report it to the police. But information about a threat may also be obtained by the police or intelligence services.

### Reporting threats to the police

The first point of contact when a threat is made is always the police. Persons or organisations subjected to threats must report them. They must do so because the threat will otherwise be very difficult to assess. Once a threat has been reported, the police will assess it, possibly with the help of information obtained from the intelligence services. If necessary, the police will ensure that the appropriate security measures are taken. Responsibility for security measures lies primarily with the authorities at local level. The police force in the region where a threat is reported is responsible for carrying out those measures.

The diagram below shows the surveillance and protection process from the reporting of the threat to the implementation of security measures.



The measures will vary from unintrusive technical measures to intensive personal protection, depending on the nature of the threat. Every threat requires a slightly different solution.

### During surveillance

During a surveillance period, the person or persons protected must be able to continue functioning with as little disruption as possible. If the authorities decide to take security measures, an interview will first be held with the person or representatives of the property or services to be protected. If the surveillance period lasts longer, the surveillance team will be in regular contact with the protected person or organisation. But it is very important that neither the authorities nor the person directly affected pass on any information about the security measures to third parties. During a surveillance period, new threats must also always be reported to the police.

### National priority for certain persons, property and services

Responsibility for security measures lies primarily with the authorities at local level. But in the case of persons, property and services with a special function in our democratic system, special responsibility lies with central government. These persons, property and services fall into what we call the 'central government domain'. They consist of:

- persons, property or services whose safety and ability to function without interruption is considered to be in the national interest; they include the monarch and politicians;
- certain foreign persons, such as foreign heads of state visiting the Netherlands, and foreign property, such as embassies in this country;
- certain persons working in the criminal justice system, such as the president of the Council for the Judiciary.

These persons, property and services are on an exhaustive list which classifies them into two categories. Category 1 includes members of the Royal House. Standard security measures always apply to these persons, irrespective of whether a threat exists. Category 2 includes members of the Senate and House of Representatives. The government takes measures to protect these persons only if they are threatened.

### Cooperation between central and local authorities

The surveillance and protection system also oversees cooperation between central and local authorities. Central government may make recommendations, solicited or unsolicited, to the authorities at local level about security measures, including measures to protect persons, property or services outside the central government domain. It will do so, for instance, if new information is obtained at national level first. The authorities at local level can also request the inclusion of persons, property or services, possibly temporarily, in the central government domain. This may occur, for instance, if a threatened person regularly travels around the Netherlands and the security measures have to be carried out by several regional police forces. In cases of this kind, central coordination makes sense.