

Appendix 2: Tension monitoring template

Tension return used by many police authorities and Tension Monitoring Groups

Borough Community Tension Assessment

Title & Version	Community Tension Assessment Return V.8
Protective Marking	Restricted
Publication Scheme	No
Summary/Purpose	To record and collate information regarding community tension

To be submitted before **12 noon on Wednesday** using:

Insert local email contact for Tension returns

Borough/OCU	
Date of assessment	
Submission authorised by	
Last IAG meeting (where applicable)	
Last Gold Group meeting (where applicable)	
Name and contact details of person compiling this report	

Further advice on the completion of this document may be obtained from:

Insert local contacts for advice or information

Guidance notes

Who should complete this report and when should it be submitted?

It is recommended that this document be completed by the person best placed to assess community tensions and bring together information from:

- CRIS (Crime Reporting Information System)
- CRIMINT (Criminal Intelligence System) and other intelligence systems
- Partners – through the Tension Monitoring Group with the Local Authority
- SNTs (Safer Neighbourhood Teams), PCCGs (Police Community Consultative Groups) and IAGs (Independent Advisory Groups)
- Open sources including local media
- Senior Management Team members

It is immaterial where within a BOCU/OCU the person completing the report is based.

On completion the report should be signed off and authorised by an SMT member for submission to the local contact in the police service before noon each Wednesday.

This document is suitable for use in local briefings with the local Tension Monitoring Team, however it should not be disseminated outside the police service or to people who are not allowed access to restricted material without consultation with the lead officer in the police service.

The document uses a nationally agreed scale for measuring community tension and forms the basis for setting the area and regional tension assessment level.

Additional reports may be requested prior to normal submission dates. These assessments are separate from the normal weekly assessments and should only address the issues mentioned in the requirement.

Assessing the grading

There are four assessment areas:

- Section 1 - Experienced
- Section 2 - Evidenced
- Section 3 - Potential
- Section 4 - Tension Summary Table

Experienced, Evidenced and Potential

Each of these sections requires the provision of a description of the information available to support the numerical assessment grading (1 – 6) and trend indicator (▲, ▼, ►) which is entered in the tension summary table found in section 4. The grading must be supported by information entered under each section heading. These sections must never be left blank, or contain the same information week on week.

The **tension summary table** in section 4 requires tension within specific groups to be assessed and a numerical grading and trend applied. This assessment is independent of the overall borough tension figure and trend indicator.

The assessment tension figures and their definitions can be found in Appendix A.

Section 1: Experienced – how do communities feel

- Must be assessed after consultation
- What do communities think is happening?
- Rumour and perception is as valuable as fact

This section can include information sourced from:

- IAG meetings that are not subject to CRIMINT, CRIS or CAD
- PCCG/CPCG meetings as above
- Local media and other local open sources
- SN Teams
- Information from partners, local authority, schools, housing, community development, health
- Post event feedback from communities
- Community conversation and rumour

NB – this list is not exhaustive

Information supporting borough numerical assessment:

Section 2: Evidenced – what do we know is happening

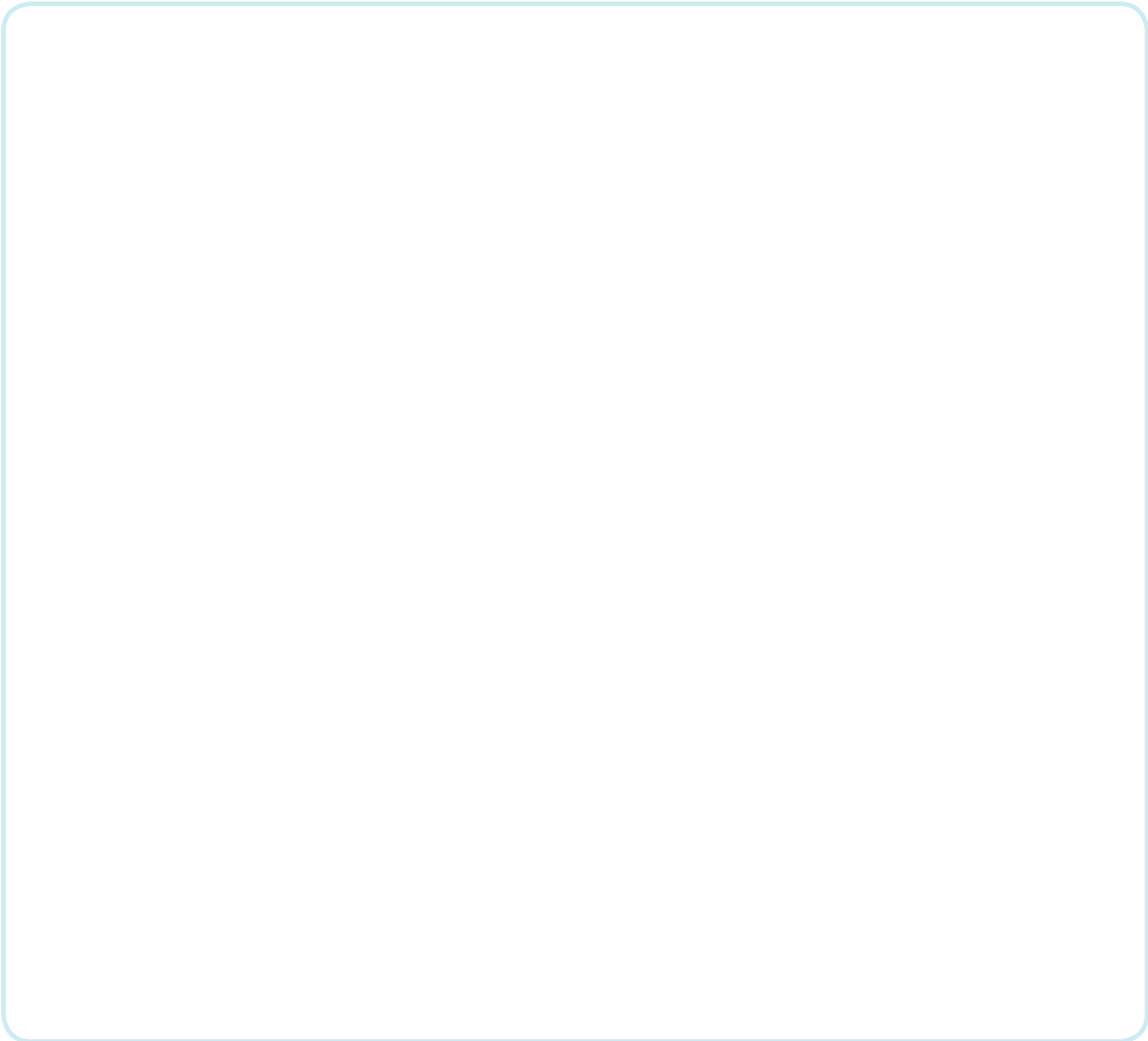
Usually factual but can be sourced from both police and partner systems.

The borough response from this section can include input from:

- CRIMINT
- CRIS
- CAD
- BOCU Stops Data
- Data from hot spot maps (do not include maps)
- Other local indices – including incidents in schools and from partners

NB – this list is not exhaustive

Information supporting borough numerical assessment:



Section 3: Potential – what might happen or has the potential to happen

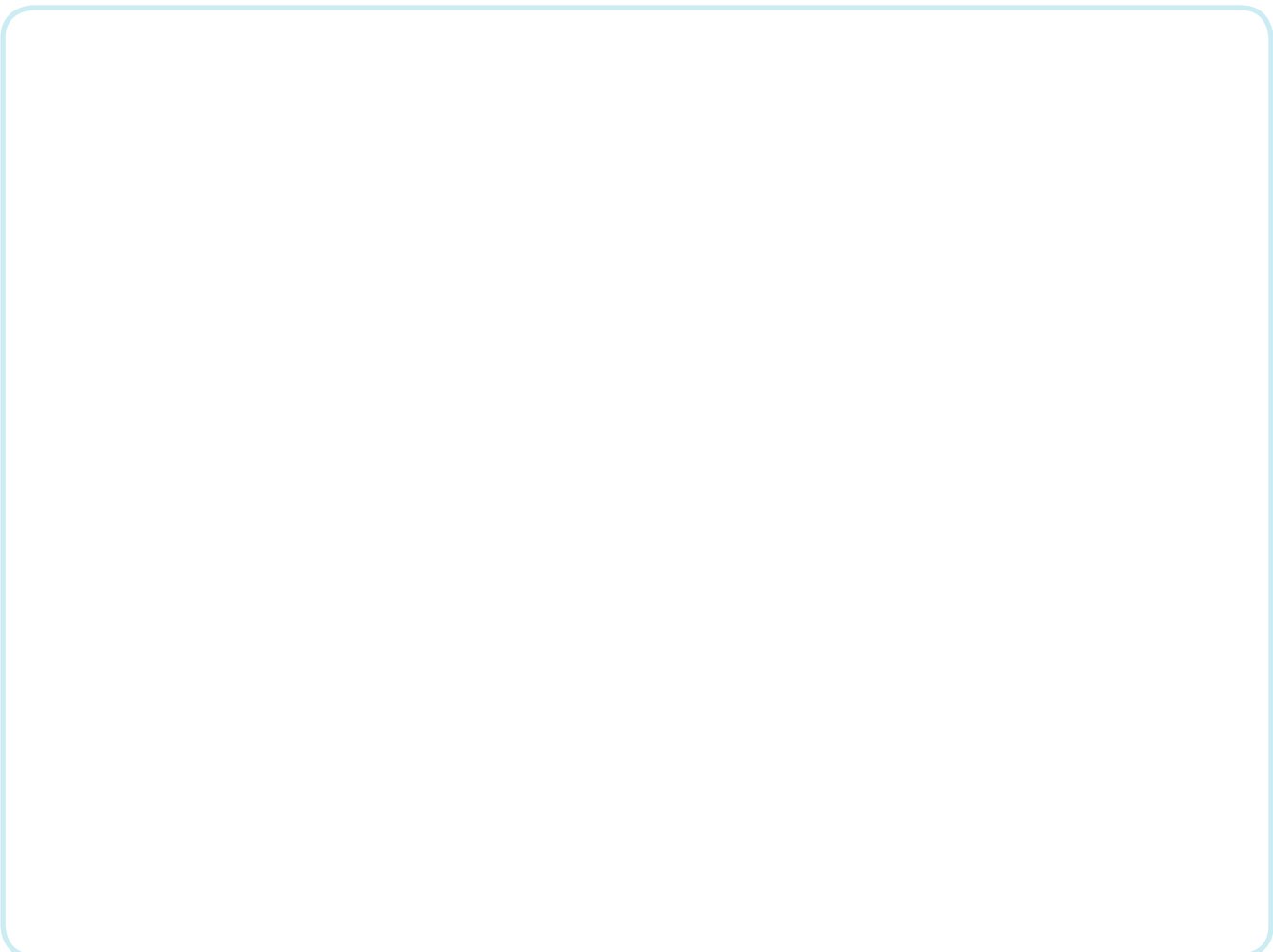
This can include predicted or planned events by both police and communities.
List local events together with policing resources and Gold and Silver Commanders.

This section is intended to be speculative and/or predictive. It can be derived from the commentary on the two sections above taking into account:

- Community conversation and rumour
- Media speculation (local or national)
- BOCU events and planning calendar
- Input from BOCU OPS, partners and tension monitoring team
- SN teams
- CRIMINT
- CRIS
- How local/national or international events impact on the communities of the borough
- BOCU tasking meetings and relevant PATPs (ProActive Tasking Proformas)

NB – this list is not exhaustive

Information supporting borough numerical assessment:



Section 4: Tension summary table

For each assessment (faith, race, gang etc) enter in the box below a numerical grading (1 – 6) together with an indication of trend. The trend is derived by comparing last week’s numerical grading, then assessing whether the trend has moved up or down.

If last week’s figure is higher than this week’s, the trend is raised (▲), if this week’s figure is lower than last week’s, the trend is falling (▼), if last week’s figure is the same as this week’s, the trend is static (▶).

Please note, if an assessment grading of 4 or above is set, an indication of your borough’s response should be included as an appendix to your report. This need not be a detailed report and can be as simple as stating “monitoring in place”.

Please note neither the content of this box nor the BOCU three-figure assessment should be seen as a performance indicator.

BOCU summary assessment figures & trends

	Experienced	Evidenced	Potential
The assessment for faith communities is:			
The assessment for race is:			
The assessment in relation to gang activity is:			
The assessment for travelling communities is:			
The assessment for guns & knife related issues is:			
The assessment for LGBT communities is:			
The assessment related to disability issues:			
The BOCU three figure assessment and trend is:			

Trend assessments	
▼	Falling
▶	Static
▲	Raised

See Appendix 2A for example of how a summary table might look.

Note: At times of operational necessity, the above table could be added to or amended.

In some areas, the Tension Monitoring Group has arranged its summary assessment on a geographical basis.

Appendix 2 A: Assessment figure definitions

Note: These definitions are updated for this edition and include **alternative scenarios** in relation to public order and levels of fear and anxiety in the community.

Assessment definitions – EXPERIENCED

1	Imminent	Corroborated evidence of preparation for crime and disorder – e.g. groups gathering, weapons being prepared etc; Widespread calls at national or international levels for explanation, action or sanction; Community fears are leading to threats and retaliation.
2	High	Substantial evidence of fear of crime and/or disorder along with evidence of preparations to deal with the consequences – e.g. boarding up of shops; Members of the public expressing critical concerns or questioning actions; Sections of the community do not feel able to go about their daily lives as they are very fearful of their treatment by others. Some sections of those communities may be increasingly aggressive.
3	Moderate (high)	Evidence of widespread alarm at current tension levels. Local media reporting that tension is raised with local opinion formers and/or local people stating their fears; Local and national media may have sustained coverage of the issues; Fear and anxiety is sustained and daily activities changed as a result. Communities are increasingly concerned and feelings are running high.
4	Moderate (low)	Corroborated evidence that a significant number of people in the community in question or across communities fear crime and/or disorder. They expect crime and disorder to happen if no action is taken to prevent it and/or another event serves to increase tension; There is widespread discussion of the issue, some polarisation of views is apparent, media interest is regular and may be at the local and/or national level; Fear and anxiety amongst some or all of the community is heightened and leading to changes in their behaviour and strong public statements from members of the community.
5	Above normal	Some corroborated evidence of fear of crime or disorder within the community. The crime and disorder feared would be of low intensity and/or experienced by a limited range of people; There is some evidence of growing levels of discussion, media interest is increasing, may be sporadic but remains at a local level; As a result of local, national or international events, there is an increase in the levels of fear and anxiety in some parts of the community.
6	Normal	Limited community concerns that tension will rise and that, even if it did, the impact will be minor; Discussion is confined to single interest groups with negligible or no media interest; There are no significant differences to the normal levels of fear and anxiety in the community. This may still require attention.