RISK ASSESSMENT

PROFORMA – Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Activity/Role: Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026 31th July – 7st August 30th July – 8th August (Coaches 18-25)	**Date:** 25th Feb 2026 **Version:** 6 **Review Date:** To be reviewed by 1st September 2026 **Initial Completion Date:** 10th July 2023	**Completed By:** Tracy Young, Claire Garbutt, Liz Joy **Reviewed By:** Jonny Henry, Thomas Linsley, Michelle Hall

Key Review Dates	Further Actions from Review	Actioned By
June 2023	To be finalised for 2023 (prior to departure of pilgrimage)	LPG
12th September 2023	Post Review of the Lourdes Pilgrimage within the first 6 weeks of return Collate all notes made by leaders on RA, review near misses, accidents, incidents etc. Risk Assessment to be amended	LPG
	1st Review 6 weeks from post review – Formulation of all paperwork and assessments prior to 2023 Lourdes Pilgrimage	
14th February 2024	Review in line with the inclusion of young people to support the Lourdes Pilgrimage.	LPG
9th July 2024	Review after Lourdes core group meeting 16th May 2024.	LPG
11th June 2025	Review in line with Lourdes 2025 pilgrimage arrangements	LPG
25th Feb 2026	Review in line with arrangements for 2026, and the new Lourdes Planning Group (LPG)	LPG

Purpose

At all times during the Pilgrimage the safety of all pilgrims will be continually reviewed and where required additional risk analysis will take place and be recorded by the members of the designated team.

Although this detailed risk assessment is complete in covering the main areas of risk, continual risk review and dynamic risk assessment will be completed throughout the trip and the details recorded as required. The safety and welfare for all pilgrims coordinated by the Lead Nurses, Health & Safety Coordinator (Vice President of Hospitality), President of Hospitality and the Youth Section Coordinator, with assistance from the other team members.

The Diocese of H&N Pilgrimage to Lourdes is a very important event in the life of the Diocese and offers spiritual refreshment and renewal to its pilgrims. The Core Group are committed in minimising the health, safety and welfare risk to ALL pilgrims. The primary responsibility for Health & Safety on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes rests with The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and the people appointed to plan and manage the Pilgrimage.

The Pilgrimage Director has overall responsibility for the Pilgrimage.

The risks are assessed by the Core Group and documented by the Health & Safety Coordinator.

Tangney Tours (TT) is engaged as tour operator and many members of the medical team and hospitality are very experienced.

General

All pilgrims must always take responsibility for their own Health & Safety.

All pilgrims are made aware of the importance of staying hydrated throughout the course of the Pilgrimage.

Safety Action Plan

Subject Area	Priority	Action Required	Suggested Completion Date	Completed By
Lourdes Venues	**1**	Pre-Visit (team): Pilgrimage Director (PD); Lead Nurse (LN); Youth Coordinator (YC); Health & Safety Coordinator (H&SC);	Feb 2026	Feb 2026 (viewed by LPG)

	1	The Health and Safety Coordinator(H&SC) to liaise with the Youth Hotel, Accueil Notre Dam and Hotel Gallia Londres in relation to their requirements of fire and electricity. (any changes for 2026 to be confirmed)	Feb 2026	Completed for 2026
Tour Operator	**2**	Insurance documents received		Awaiting Confirmation
	1	Due Diligence evidence received e.g. coach company info, Safety certs from hotel/accueil.		Awaiting Confirmation
Staffing and Participants	**1**	Ensure that all documentation required for pilgrimage is carried when travelling and stored securely.		YC
	1	Nurse Coordinator (NC) to have received all necessary information regarding the anticipated care needs of sick pilgrims.	Dynamic	
	2	Pre-visit team to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.	On return from Lourdes	
Traffic and Wheelchairs	**1**	All pilgrims using or pushing wheelchairs around Lourdes to be advised to use the red routes. These were newly repainted and well defined in July 2019.		
Subject Area	**Priority**	**Action Required**	**Suggested Completion Date**	**Completed By**
Travel Overland Travel By Air Masses, Liturgies, Processions and Catechesis (Ceremonies) Hotels Traffic and Wheelchairs (Including Scooters) Baths	**2**	LPG to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.	9th July 2026	LPG

Free Time and Movement around Lourdes Out of Town Excursions Garden Party – Gallia Londres Hotel Inclement Weather Acts of Terrorism, Emergency Evacuation & General Security Covid-19 Specific				

Subject Area	Priority	Action Required	Suggested Completion Date	Completed By
Garden Party Gallia Londres Hotel	**1**	Check fire escape routes	Feb 2026	LPG
	2	Pilgrimage Director, Health & Safety Coordinator, and Lead Nurse to check fire prevention measures and escape routes are sufficient and operational on the day of the party. (Fire prevention measures and escape routes sufficient and operational at the time of the pre- visit)	Feb 2026	LPG
Out of town Excursions	**1**	Check facilities – first leader person to do this. **Health and Safety Co-ordinator and Lead Nurse to visit the LAC DE Lourdes, to assess activity hazards, welfare facilities and to agree controls.**	Feb 2025	LPG
Acts of Terrorism,		Copies of this document are to be issued to the following:	July 2026	LPG

		All co-ordinators within the Diocesan Pilgrimage – risk assessment uploaded for sharing		
Emergency Evacuation & General Security	**1**	Lourdes Core Group to ensure that Lourdes Pilgrimage assembly location is discussed and relayed to all personnel in the event of an attack or evacuation emergency. Run, hide, tell. Information leaflet given at Preparation Day *Run, hide, tell.*	On Arrival	
Training of Volunteer and Youth Leaders		Diocesan Safeguarding BLMA Training Modules Training preparation day	15th June 8th July 13th July 2025	All travellers

Other Relevant Information

Other Relevant Information (Any additional or specific Hazards or Control Measures for activities that are not identified in the assessment should be included)
Lourdes Planning Group to meet every other day
Care Needs Documentation (Lead Nurse)
Policies
Registered Helpers Handbook (issued to **all** registered helpers)
Lourdes Timetables and Duty Rotas issued to all members of the Youth Section and registered helpers
Escalation Plans (Acute physical/mental illness; missing person)

Personal Care Plan prepared, and agreed for any travellers, including volunteers who will require either physical or mental health support.

Staffing and Participants

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Elderly, sick, frail and adults who may be at risk. Any member of the public is able to book onto this pilgrimage directly with tour operator. Undisclosed information may present a risk. Inadequate Training/preparation Poor control of infection Lack of competency Provision of Inadequate Care Loss of personal information	**Low**	All	Possible grooming, abuse Care needs not met Pre-existing condition deterioration Illness Injury Neglect Breach of confidentiality

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
All pilgrims advised valid EHIC/GHIC is ESSENTIAL. Information sharing between leaders of groups (main pilgrimage and youth section) specifically with regard to safeguarding. Online training and preparation day for all volunteers to explain responsibilities for individuals and their behaviour, reinforced by registered helpers handbook. Tour operator will flag pilgrims, identified via booking form as needing assistance, to Lead Nurse, president of hospitality and VP Hospitalite (outreach). **Pilgrims**

All assisted pilgrims must complete a Medical Form disclosing medical conditions, prescribed medications and assistance required, including GP contact details

Medical information to be securely stored in locked room throughout the pilgrimage, until returned to pilgrims, as per their request, or destroyed on return to UK. Appointed nurse responsible for keeping medical information secure throughout journey.

Assisted pilgrims to be given appropriate levels of care and supervision as far as is possible.

All accueil pilgrims issued with 24-hour emergency contact number (tour operator)

Volunteers

DBS checks must be completed for all volunteers prior to pilgrimage

New volunteers are safely recruited in line with CSSA policy and in plenty of time in advance of the pilgrimage.

All volunteers must follow Safeguarding requirements set by the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

All volunteer leaders must complete online training modules and be there in person on preparation day. (In exceptional circumstances, non attendance to be reported to PoH for training to be arranged.)

All registered helpers must follow code of conduct.

Lifting and movement of assisted pilgrims only undertaken by the medical team or those trained in correct manual handling.

Lead Nurses will have specific knowledge of care requirements and will advise other members of team as necessary, ensuring correct levels of care are given.

All carers are asked to advise the Team Coordinator of any factors which may affect their ability to carry out tasks.

All relevant care information available to all volunteers working with pilgrims., on a need-to-know basis.

Registered helpers to bring any general concerns or issues to the notice of the Team Leaders, in the first instance or any care concerns directly to a nurse.

Medical team to liaise with all carers regarding any change in condition or care requirements.

Registered helpers advised to recognise their own limitations.

Medical team to work within their own competencies.

Youth Section (Up to 25)

All young people travelling with the youth section undertake preparation prior to departure and the Youth Coordinator is on hand to help and advise.

Young people are well prepared and coordinated for the pilgrimage.

A programme of daily meetings is in place, including ad hoc and emergency meetings to keep all relevant leaders updated as appropriate.

Each young person signs a code of conduct before the pilgrimage. This is held by Youth Coordinator.

Young people are asked to advise their group leaders/team leaders of any factors which may affect their ability to carry out tasks.

Telephone numbers for hospital and emergency services and Youth Leaders given on lanyards to all young people.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	Begin Recruitment Process in September
2	Pilgrimage Director and all Core Group Members to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.
3	All individuals to be made aware of restrictions regarding smoking or vaping restrictions whilst travelling, and restrictions will include any indoor areas during the pilgrimage.

Medical Emergencies

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Pilgrims becoming unwell Acute physical or mental illness or accidental injury.	**Medium**	All	Anyone becoming unwell or sustaining an injury. Inadequate or untimely care in acute emergency presentation.

Controls Measures in Place
All Doctors must have current GMC registration, license to practice and defence cover checked. Doctors and Nurses who will be acting in a professional capacity have been made aware of the need to make sure they have appropriate insurance in place for the activities they are due to undertake. All Nurses, must hold current NMC registration with no restrictions to practise and have membership of a professional organisation.

All assisted pilgrims will have completed a medical form which will be assessed by the Nurse Coordinator and discussed with the Lead Doctor as required.

All assisted pilgrims will have received medical assessment visit, or phone call if well known to the team.

Decision on fitness to travel taken by Lead Nurses and Lead Doctor.

All assisted pilgrims asked to disclose relevant medical information requested to report any changes or updates, prior to pilgrimage, with Nurse Coordinator.

All pilgrims, including volunteers, clergy and youth, invited to share medical information with medical team if they may require support whilst on pilgrimage – this information will remain confidential with the Leads Nurses, unless permission is given to share with others on a need-to-know basis

All pilgrims (as listed above) asked to bring minimum 2 weeks supply of prescribed medication.

Where extra measures will be required to support any volunteer due to either physical or mental health issues, a personal care plan will be put in place.

All helpers must be aware of accident and emergency and safeguarding procedures.

Doctors and Nurses (Medical Team)know the procedure to summon emergency services and arrange hospital admission with aid of tour operator should the need arise. Medical Team to know the locations of defibrillators

Acute Physical Illness Escalation Plan in place.

Wherever possible, doctors and nurses will be present on designated assisted Pilgrim flight and at all planned Diocesan events.

Handover meetings at the end of each shift.

Where there is a known medical condition (eg Diabetes, etc…), all registered helpers are informed, and are aware of what to do in an emergency during a procession.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
2	Lead Nurses and Lead Doctor to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Medication Error

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Medication Error; Incorrect pilgrim/drug/dose/time/method	**Medium**	Anyone requiring Medication	Reaction to medication can cause severe illness, death

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Management and Distribution of Medication All medical team to provide formal proof of qualifications at recruitment stage. Nurse Coordinator to verify with Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) that the applicants' PIN is valid without restrictions. Lead Doctor and Nurse Coordinator to meet with their teams before allowing them to perform duties. Only Nurses with current NMC registration are permitted to administer medication. All carers are fully aware of the medication policy. Prior to Pilgrimage, all assisted Pilgrims are assessed as to their ability to manage medication independently and are made aware of medication policy. Pilgrims to continue to be assessed informally by medical team throughout Pilgrimage as to their ability to manage their own medication. All medication brought by Pilgrims must be clearly labelled by their pharmacist. Pilgrims who are self-medicating must store their medication in a responsible manner, if it is not being stored by the medical team. Only key nominated nurses administer routine medication. Medication is kept in the pilgrim's own room unless contra-indicated. Some medication administered by Nurses may be stored in a secure room if it is advisable not to store in pilgrims' own rooms. Handover meetings at the end of each shift. All medication administered must be correctly recorded on medication chart. Any medical errors will be recorded and investigated No Oxygen will be transported for 2026 Pilgrimage

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
2	Lead Nurses to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Moving and Handling

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Injury to pilgrims and carers e.g. weight of person or equipment/baggage being moved, difficulty of grasping person, unpredictable movements of person being lifted, repetitive handling with insufficient rest or recovery time, long distance lifting, constraints on posture because of location, variation in levels during the movement, not having enough accurate information about assisted pilgrim's mobility before Pilgrimage. Handling large or heavy items, requiring the use of team lifting.	**Medium**	All	Slips, Trips and Falls, Injury to head, body, broken bones, dislocations, wounds, sprains, strains, grazes. Shearing injury and pressure damage.

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Registered nurse, physiotherapist, qualified Health Care worker and registered helpers trained and experienced in moving and handling must be the lead for all moving and handling of all persons.
Establish who or what needs to be moved, the weight, and how to best to move, taking into account capabilities of team.
Where possible use mechanical aids (only if trained and competent and never alone).
If there are no mechanical aids, use manual aids where possible, only if trained in safe moving and handling practices
Ensure there are enough physically able carers capable of managing all known moving and handling needs.
When carrying out a manoeuvre ensure on-the-spot assessment of the task and surrounding environment is carried out and method of carrying out proposed manoeuvre is agreed by all parties concerned, bearing in mind factors such as posture, location, distance.
Appoint appropriately trained designated leader for all moving and handling tasks and follow instructions
Prior to Pilgrimage, medical team carry out visits to assisted pilgrims to establish mobility and moving and handling requirements.
Heavy baggage to be marked or labelled.
Ensure at least 2 people are involved in handling heavy (over 20kg) baggage. Manual Handling aids should be used, whenever possible for heavy items.

No one should carry out any moving and handling procedure without appropriate training, and considering must be given to an individuals maturity and fitness. Where any large items are due to be handled, an individual should be designated in charge to make sure there are enough people who are competent and confident to complete the activity safely. The individual in charge should supervise the activity whilst it is underway.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
2	Vice President of Hospitality, Lead nurses to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes. Where there are any significant manual handling tasks, an individual should be appointed to take charge of the activity.

Travel Overland

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Coach Travel Poor Operating practice by Coach Company Moving and handling baggage Boarding and alighting coach Travel sickness Moving Traffic Road accident Accident on coach Coach breakdown Incident at Service Station Delays Heat	**Medium Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by road traffic accident. Slips, trips or falls on vehicle or at service station. Medical conditions deteriorate. Traveller being lost from group.

Medical |Emergency whilst on Coach Drugs and Alcohol Smoking and Vaping Ferry Food Hygiene			

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Appoint reputable and experienced tour operator. Ensure tour operator has provided appropriate documentation.
Coach:
Planned route to be taken, included scheduled stops, except in the case of an emergency.
Follow risk assessment above, when moving and handling people and loads (luggage).
Ensure people are located in a safe place when the coach arrives for pick up and departure.
Coaches not to reverse in pick-up and drop-off areas without external guidance. External guidance must be completed from a safe area outside of any potential vehicle routes.
Coach Leader and deputy are clear about their roles and responsibilities. They can identify the First Aiders on-board.
Coach Leader to ensure that seat belts are worn at all times.
In case of an emergency evacuation, all young people and staff must leave any belongings and evacuate the coach immediately as directed by the Coach Leader and deputy.
In case of emergency or incident, mobile contact available.
If evacuating on the motorway, all must remain at a safe distance from the motorway (eg. on the embankment).
Coach Leader to ensure that coach driver has implemented emergency breakdown procedure (that police are called and that a suitable replacement vehicle is sent).
Coach Leader to be located near emergency stop button.
Food to be store in line with food hygiene guidelines.
At service station
At each stop, clear instructions are given before alighting, about keeping to designated paths to building, personal safety, timings, out-of-bounds areas etc.
Head counts to be taken prior to every departure throughout the whole journey.
Ferry:

Before any of the young people leave the Coach on the ferry, the coach leader will use the PA System on the vehicle to inform their coach party of the central location of staff, the deck and location of the coach to return to. Coach Leader will advise young people to stay in small groups and not walk around alone. Young people will be told that if they are approached by anyone they don't know, they must inform a member of staff immediately. Young people will be reminded about the dangers of being on deck and the rules about buying or consuming alcohol or drugs. Staff members will be easily identifiable to the young people. Each person travelling will be given an emergency contact number in case they need assistance. Coach Drivers will check that there are no stowaways before they leave the port or service stations.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions (further things we may require)
2	Youth Co-ordinator to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes. **Contact strategy agreed for all young people so they will remain in small groups, with at least one member of the group having at least 2 emergency contact numbers. All travellers with mobile phones to be made aware of need for roaming to be set up on mobile phone before travel.**

Travel by air

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Air Travel (Aircraft failure, depressurisation or emergency landing, delays and impact on vulnerable people) Lost people, escalators and lifts and other internal transportation methods, poor operating practice by airport and or airline, moving and handling of both people and baggage. Entrapment in machinery. Loading and unloading of aircraft. Manual Handling. Movement from Terminal Building to aircraft. Pilgrim becoming unwell or has an accident on board.	**Medium Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Slips, trips or falls on-board or at airport Hot drinks spilt on pilgrims during flight Pilgrim choking on food / drink

Serious Illness on the flight – heart attack / stroke/ Infection Becoming separated, e.g. at check-in or amongst the crowds. Interference with aircraft equipment/systems Significant delay, or cancelation of flight			Unexpected acute physical or mental health crisis. Infection e.g. Covid-19 Health needs not being met

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Lourdes Planning Group have engaged a reputable and experienced tour operator. Diocese of H&N must ensure tour operator risk assessments in place and relevant.
PoH; NC: H&SC meet with Newcastle Airport personnel in June/July to ensure appropriate arrangements are made, including wheelchair information etc.
Volunteers to sit amongst assisted pilgrims to enable assistance as and when required. Airport meeting in place to make sure control measures are in place at Newcastle airport.
Nurses to identify pilgrims who need administration of medication during travel and to ensure this is carried out in a timely manner.
All persons to read safety instruction card and pay attention to safety briefing by cabin crew. All persons comply with airline guidelines for use of face masks.
Carers know to put on own oxygen mask before fitting the oxygen mask of assisted pilgrims.
In flight needs ascertained before departure e.g. oxygen.
ProMove Team are trained to assist the boarding of passengers with limited mobility, including use of ProMove and there is clear communication between themselves and the airport staff and cabin crew.
Ensure sufficient numbers of volunteers available.
On-board instructions are to be followed at all times, e.g. when to wear seatbelts.
Follow safe manual handling procedures when handling people and baggage.
All pilgrims requiring assistance reminded not to touch the moving luggage carousel.
Hospitality team to plan baggage reclaim and inform team.
Lead Nurses and VP hospitalite to plan disembarkation of assisted pilgrims and inform boarding team.
Consider airside and landside areas when allocating tasks.
Personal baggage not to be left unattended at any time.
Follow training and procedures when using wheelchairs, follow set procedures by airport personnel.

All personal wheelchairs to be brought to the aircraft door – reducing need to use promove more than necessary

Care strategies in place, sufficient nurses and carers on each flight to ensure the administration of medical needs and medication.

Planning Group are clear about their roles and responsibilities, with First Aiders/Medical staff identified on-board. Tour operator representative available at airport.

In case of emergency on-board the aircraft, all passengers including Flight Leader will be directed by Cabin Crew to follow emergency procedure.

All passengers will be stewarded by airport staff to the aircraft. Where assistance is required, this will be provided by both airport staff, medical and carers under the guidance of the airport staff.

Lead Doctor/Lead Nurses responsible for the final decision to inform cabin crew if a pilgrim requires immediate attention. E.g. ambulance on landing, diverting flight.

All mobile telephones, lap-tops etc .to be switched off or onto flight mode prior to boarding and landing and not switched on until permitted to do so.

Where there is a significant flight delay or cancelation. Leadership team to make sure plans are in place to offer continued care for assisted pilgrims until their care can be handed over to care professionals, or a carer.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	Identified Team to be trained in use of ProMove
1	Airport staff to be informed that pre-identified and labelled wheelchairs need to be taken to the aircraft doors.
2	Lead Nurse and Lead Doctor to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.
2	Standard Operating Procedure to be put in place to make sure care needs can be met for assisted pilgrims if there is a significant flight delay.

Masses, Liturgies, Processions and Catechesis (Ceremonies)

Purpose

The ceremonies are an integral part of the pilgrimage. They involve large gatherings and crowded areas. The Lead Nurse and H&S Coordinator attended these services here whilst undertaking the Risk Assessment review the areas of concern included the location, evacuation, and number of people in attendance.

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Adverse weather conditions Slips, trips and falls Uneven, rough terrain, steep slopes Fire Risk of burns (Torchlight procession) Large crowds Becoming unwell, accidents and incidents Traffic Some roads have no footpath Banners – height, weight, limited passageways, high wind. Individuals becoming lost or disorientated	**Medium Risk**	All	Sun burn, heat exhaustion, dehydration or exposure, death Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Crushing Burns Strain

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
All Masses, Liturgies, Processions and Catechesis All pilgrims will be made aware of the venue and timings of Masses, liturgies and processions. All are advised to bring water, any medication needed and appropriate clothing according to the weather and venue. Nurses, doctors and carers will be present at all these events and will attend to anyone who become unwell during a service. All registered helpers are aware that if they are assigned to an assisted pilgrim, it is their responsibility to ensure their safe return to their hotel (if on outreach) after a service, procession etc. At the end of every procession/liturgy etc, PoH to stay until the end to ensure all DOH&N pilgrims have left the event.

All pilgrims are aware that there will be large crowds and know where to meet should they become separated from their group. (Crowned Virgin Statue, Rosary Square)

All venues have clear exits. Should there be a need for an emergency evacuation, pilgrimage team will assist the domain staff.

There are security personnel present in the Domain at all times throughout the visit.

At the Grotto Mass:

Pilgrims apply sun protection and wear hats or rainwear as required.

Pilgrims encouraged to carry and drink water, even during the Mass itself if needed.

Some large umbrellas are available to use to shield from sun or rain.

Torchlight Procession:

Any pilgrim who needs assistance will be supervised when processing and provided with an alternative to a candle with no naked flame.

Wherever possible keep the H&N Pilgrimage together where practical.

Anyone who is pushing a wheelchair or holding banners must not carry a lit candle.

Underground Basilica and International Mass

All means of escape are visible and easily identifiable.

Emergency lighting is in place.

Extinguishers are visible with wording and pictorial details of use; however, pilgrims should only use an extinguisher if they have been trained and need to do so to aid safe evacuation.

All exits kept clear.

There are multiple exit points throughout all buildings allowing large crowds to disperse easily.

First Aid station in Underground Basilica.

Late Night Grotto Vigils and Visits (Youth Section only)

Extra care to be taken here due to tiredness of all involved.

Increased vigilance whilst walking through the town because of increased alcohol consumption in cafes and bars.

All youth section pilgrims must stay together in groups of no less than 3 and all pilgrims to be advised not to make a late night visit to the Grotto on their own. All pilgrims advised not to make late night trips to the Grotto on their own.

Under 18 will not be allowed to consume alcohol. No alcohol is allowed for any volunteer whilst they are on duty.

Permanence and Banner Carrying

Clear instructions given, eg. How to take banner outside without damaging ceiling. Consider weather conditions prior to use of banners.

Route led by Banner Co-ordinator, who knows the route well and avoids trees, bunting and overhead obstacles, doorways, route planned in advance, being mindful of other pilgrims and their activities.

The Banner Co-ordinator is the responsible adult and directs the young people (assisted by parent/carer) and registered helpers how to carry, where to process, where to put down, different venues have different places. When processions are long or standing still for long periods of time is required, banner carriers work in shifts. Banner Co-ordinator monitors this. Any carriers to be both competent and confident they can carry safely and made aware of support available. At daily leaders meetings, banner allocation to include the type of banner activity, allowing leaders to choose competent and confident young people/helpers accordingly. Eg. Flat, easy, torchlight steps etc. At Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, the banners go up steps, 2 adults are needed here to supervise – Banner Co-ordinator and another. Putting banners away is the reverse of getting them out. Young people/helpers told that the banner is their responsibility on receipt of banner until safely returned. Two Diocesan banners are short and need a guide as well as a carrier. Where any activity will require the use of more than one person to safely handle an item, a person should be appointed to plan and supervise the task.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
2	Pilgrimage Director, President of Hospitality, Lead Nurse to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Hotel Alba

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Fire Health and Safety Standards Food Hygiene Standards Unknown Guests Slips, trips and falls Emergency Evacuation	**Low Risk**	All	Burns, broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Assault, abduction Distress

Theft			

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle have engaged a reputable and experienced tour operator to make the hotel bookings and all necessary H&S and Food Hygiene standards verified.
Tour Reps check on arrangements the day before arrival of Youth Helpers and to be present at the hotels at time of arrival.
The hotel has been used over many years and are experienced in dealing with pilgrimages throughout the year.
Condition of hotel checked by Tour Operator prior to arrival.
Hotel restaurant staff are informed prior to the pilgrimage, of any allergies and special dietary requirements.
Fire Action
Youth Coordinator should make themselves aware of the fire evacuation procedures for the hotel.
All persons should know the fire assembly area for their hotel.
No lifts are to be used in the event of an emergency – unless there is a fire designated lift.
Assigned youth team leaders are assigned a corridor each at each hotel to do a daily check that all fire exits are clear.
Medical Assistance and security of items
All youth helpers are informed about how to call for help should they become unwell or need assistance whilst in the hotel.
First Aiders/Medical staff know the locations of defibrillators and First Aid kits.
First Aiders available with further assistance from the medical team when needed.
Youth helpers are advised to use the safe in their hotel room for storage of valuable items, including passport, currency, camera etc.
Youth helpers must always work in pairs.
Electrical Equipment
The electrical distribution in European countries is different to the UK. Ensure that all pilgrims are made aware of this and they have the correct conversion plugs.
Ensure all electrical sockets within rooms are serviceable and any defects reported immediately to hotel reception. (Visual check)
Any maintenance issues with equipment to be reported immediately.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	Youth Coordinator and Youth leaders to ensure all locations are at the required standard on arrival and all areas of concern to be rectified prior to occupation.
2	Assign youth leaders to each occupied corridor of Alba before arrival and ensure each assigned person is clear about their responsibilities.
3	Youth Coordinator to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Traffic and Wheelchairs (including electric scooters)

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Slips, trips and falls Uneven, cobbled roads and paths Road Traffic accident Injury Collision Moving vehicles Narrow or Blocked Pavements Height of pavements Crowded areas and walkways	**Medium Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Crush and strain injuries caused during mobility aid movement. Fall incident for person being transported in a wheelchair if it becomes unstable.

Change in Traffic Direction Faulty Wheelchairs Built up Busy Areas			

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Wheelchairs All wheelchair users and those pushing wheelchairs have received appropriate training, including safe pushing techniques, awareness of pedestrians, uneven terrain, high curbs, crossing roads etc. as well as the needs of the pilgrim, how to assist getting in and out of wheelchairs etc. They are also advised to use the "Red Route" to get to and from the town to the Domain. Appropriate footwear to be worn by persons assisting with wheelchairs. Those pushing wheelchairs be alert at all times Wheelchair maintenance carried out by Accueil Marie St Frai. Wheelchairs to be assigned to individuals for the duration of the pilgrimage **Traffic** All wheelchair users and those pushing wheelchairs are advised to use the "Red Route" to get to and from the town to the Domain All pilgrims to be alerted to traffic hazards and potential change of direction of traffic. Assisted pilgrims to be accompanied by carers when moving through built-up, busy areas. Youth Section pilgrims told to stay in groups of no fewer than 3. Particular attention should be given to sight and hearing impaired persons. Pilgrims made aware that vehicles do not always give way to pedestrians and they will be travelling on the opposite side of the road.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	**Actions**
1	All pilgrims using or pushing wheelchairs around Lourdes to be competent (via experience or training) and to be advised to use the red routes. These were newly repainted and well defined in July 2019.
2	H&S Coordinator, Lead Nurse and Lead Doctor to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

3	Any charging of electrical appliances (including wheelchairs and mobility scooters) to be completed in a safe area in line with controls included in the fire risk assessment for the site.

The Baths

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Wet surfaces underfoot Over crowding	**Low Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death by accident Slips, trips and falls Emotional distress

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
New procedure in place ● Moving and handling completed in line with instructions from H&SC and Lead Nurses ● No removal of clothing other that outwear jackets/coats, if preferred ● Immersion in water if preferred Pilgrims and volunteers are made aware of the procedures in the Baths before entering. Responsibility within the Baths is under the control of Notre Dame Hospitality. Appropriate liturgy offered as an alternative to the Baths. Medical team to be present at the Baths.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions

2	Lead Nurse and H&SC check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Free time and movement around Lourdes

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Road traffic accident Confrontation with members of the public Pick-pockets Being separated from the group due to large crowd Disorientation Getting lost Fast flowing river Alcohol and Drugs Personal and Physical harm to pilgrims Unwanted advances from unknown members of the public	**Medium Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Assault, abduction, theft of personal belongings Distress Drowning Sickness, intoxication, injuries due to risk-taking behaviour **Over 18s are not allowed to purchase alcohol for any under 18s.**

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
For control measure regarding traffic, see Traffic section above. All adult/youth registered helpers wear a particular colour sweatshirt and polo shirt and neckerchief throughout the pilgrimage to aid in identification. Pilgrims are advised to keep all personal belongings safe – including fastened bags, closed pockets etc. Pilgrims in the youth section must stay together in groups of no fewer than 3 at any time of the day or night. They carry emergency contact details for staff and know where key staff members will be located during free time. The banks of the river are to be avoided and extra care to be taken whilst near the river bank walls and bridges in the domain. All pilgrims are advised to keep to the code of conduct which includes responsible drinking for all adults. **(The legal age for buying or consuming alcohol in France is 18)** **Becoming Lost or Separated**

Lanyards to be provided for all assisted pilgrims, adult/youth registered helpers, with name, H&N Pilgrimage, tour operator emergency contact number and staff emergency contact number. This is to be in English and French. All pilgrims to be vigilant at all times. All youth registered helpers and assisted pilgrims must not go out on their own. Escalation plan for missing person procedure in place; with every pilgrim (including volunteers/helpsers) having emergency contact number. Pilgrims advised to stay to designated main routes. Assisted Pilgrims, adult/youth registered helpers, to inform those with them if they are to visit somewhere other than planned (eg. toilet) Helpers advised what to do if approached by strangers; It is recommended that, especially at night, all adult/registered helpers don't go out alone. Pre-identified meeting point for those separated or lost – Crowned Virgin Statue in Domain or Youth hotel (Youth)

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	All volunteers made aware
2	Pilgrimage Director and Core Group to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Garden Party (Hotel Alba)

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Slips, trips and falls Undulating ground	**Low Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Electrocution

Electrical equipment Members of Public			Abuse, abduction

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Fire escape kept clear at all times. All electrical equipment PAT tested, well maintained, and set up safely and securely. Covered area provided for the protection from the weather. In case of inclement weather, the party will be continued under cover. All staff within the hotel, and pilgrimage personnel are aware of the actions to be taken in the event of a fire within this facility. The outside area used for the garden party has sufficient means of escape leading onto public footpaths and highways in the event of a fire emergency evacuation.

Actions

Priority	**Actions**
1	Check fire escape routes & place No entry sign at the bottom of the fire escape
2	Youth Coordinator and President of Hospitality, Health & Safety Coordinator to check fire prevention measures and escape routes are sufficient and operational on the day of the party. (Fire prevention measures and escape routes sufficient and operational at the time of the pre- visit)
2	Youth Coordinator President of Hospitality, Lead Nurse, Lead Doctor and Health & Safety Coordinator to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Lac de Lourdes

Hazards	**Risk Rating**	**Persons Exposed to Harm**	**How Persons may be Harmed**

Slips, trips and falls Undulating ground Open water Members of Public	**Low Risk**	All	Broken bones, abrasions, possible head injuries, death caused by accident. Drowning, Hypothermia and death caused by accident. Abuse, abduction

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
Fire escape kept clear at all times.
All electrical equipment PAT tested, well maintained, and set up safely and securely.
There is a covered area that provides protection from the weather. In case of inclement weather, the trip will be continued under cover.
All staff within the restaurant , and pilgrimage personnel are aware of the actions to be taken in the event of a fire within this facility.
The outside area used at the lake has sufficient means of escape leading onto public footpaths and highways in the event of a fire emergency evacuation.
No swimming to be permitted for all helpers on shift, Pilgrims or Youth
Pedelos permitted on a case by case basis this will be determined by Youth Coordinator and Lead Nurse

Actions

Priority	**Actions**
1	Check fire escape routes & place No entry sign at the bottom of the fire escape
2	Youth Coordinator and President of Hospitality, Health & Safety Coordinator to check fire prevention measures and escape routes are sufficient and operational on the day of the trip. (Fire prevention measures and escape routes sufficient and operational at the time of the pre- visit)
2	Youth Coordinator President of Hospitality, VP of Hospitality Lead Nurse and Health & Safety Coordinator to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Individuals travelling independently (not registered as Assisted Pilgrims/but using Outreach Service)

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Elderly, sick, frail and vulnerable adults may be at risk. Any member of the public is able to book onto this pilgrimage directly with tour operator. Undisclosed information may present a risk. Lack of provision of adequate Care	**Medium**	All those not registered as assisted pilgrims	Care needs not met Illness Injury Neglect/self-neglect Breach of confidentiality

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
All pilgrims advised valid EHIC/GHIC is ESSENTIAL. All pilgrims invited to complete medical forms if they have on-going medical issue(s); **While it is recognised that some pilgrims will choose not to share/disclose personal medical/nursing information, in the event of:** ● **a medical emergency - the Good Samaritan Act will come into effect and emergency assistance should be offered, ensuring personal safety of all persons involved and involving local health services (including use of tour operator)** ● **if somebody sees, or is involved in an accident or incident where somebody requires medical attention in France, either within the party or not; there is a responsibility to offer assistance. For most people this will be to phone 112 (if appropriate), or to offer initial assistance to the person who requires it.** ● **Any significant incident should be reported to a member of the senior leadership team by phoning the Lourdes Pilgrimage mobile 0044 07930891326.** **Pilgrims** All assisted pilgrims must complete a Medical Form disclosing medical conditions, prescribed medications and assistance required, including GP contact details

Medical information to be securely stored in locked room throughout the pilgrimage, until returned to pilgrims, as per their request, or destroyed on return to UK. We are required to keep so would not return or destroy. Appointed nurse responsible for keeping medical information secure throughout journey. Assisted pilgrims to be given appropriate levels of care and supervision as far as is possible.

All pilgrims issued with 24-hour emergency contact number (tour operator), and the number for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes mobile (**07930891326)**.

Volunteers (Diocesan appointed)

DBS checks must be completed for all volunteers prior to pilgrimage.

New volunteers are safely recruited in line with CSSA policy and in plenty of time in advance of the pilgrimage.

All volunteers must follow Safeguarding requirements set by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle including BLMA training

All volunteers must follow code of conduct as per carers handbook.

Lifting and movement of assisted pilgrims only undertaken by the medical team or those specifically trained in safe manual handling.

Lead Nurses will have specific knowledge of care requirements and will advise other members of team as necessary, ensuring correct levels of care are given.

All carers are asked to advise the Team Coordinator of any factors which may affect their ability to carry out tasks.

All relevant care information available to all volunteers working with pilgrims., on a need-to-know basis.

Private medical information must not be shared beyond the clinical team.

Carers to bring any concerns or issues to the notice of the chief nurse, or a member of the clinical team, in the first instance

Clinical team to liaise with all carers regarding any change in condition or care requirements.

Carers advised to recognise their own limitations.

Clinical team to work within their own competencies as per their Professional Standards

Inclement Weather

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Slips Trips Falls Sunburn Electrocution Mass Movement of People	**Low Risk**	All	Slips, Trips and Falls, Injury to head, body, broken bones, dislocations, wounds, sprains strains, grazes, head injuries Heat Stroke

Wet and decaying leaves and grass Footwear inappropriate to the onset of inclement weather Rain Water and pooling of water (Puddles) Lighting and Electrical equipment outside supporting areas of the procession. Lightning			Heat Exhaustion Dehydration

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
All pilgrims to be briefed and reminded to take special care in case of inclement weather and dangerous road or pavement surfaces. All pilgrims to be advised that the majority of hotels and other premises have tiled floor areas and can be very slippery when wet. Entrance to some of the properties have large nonslip flooring mats. Emergency contact list to be held so warnings can be sent to all volunteers/pilgrims if plans need to change. All people attending pilgrimage made aware of the need to bring appropriate footwear. **Sun Risk** Sun cream to be available and used where needed to prevent sun burn. Drinking Water to be available to all. Shaded areas to be used wherever possible. Parasols/umbrellas and hats to be used if required. Medical team are on hand to treat conditions relating to the sun. Medical team to brief all persons on the dangers of the sun and heat, and precautions to be taken. Water bottles available for assisted pilgrims and refilled at least daily by carers. **Flood Risk** All pilgrims and helpers to be made aware of the flood risk within Lourdes… if this is imminent or likely In the event of a flood. Direction will come from HNDL

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
2	Youth Coordinator, President of Hospitality and Lead Doctor to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes. On return, these are to be relayed to Diocesan Health and Safety Officer at the review.

Emergency Evacuation & General Security

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Explosion Falling Debris Disorientation Noise Flying Debris Shooting, stabbing	**Medium Risk**	All	Slips, trips and falls, injury to head, body, broken bones, dislocations, wounds, sprains strains, grazes, head injuries. Explosive Injuries Deafness Shock Burns, scalds Trapped (Building Collapse)

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place
In the event of an emergency evacuation, advice will be given by Sanctuary Security staff within the domain. All persons will be told to be aware of the need to be vigilant and to keep all personal belongings with them at all times. All phones will be asked to be switched off in the event of an evacuation. All persons to be vigilant throughout any of the service, and report to the most senior person available any security concerns. Helpers to assist wheelchair users with the evacuation. The local Police force are present throughout the time at Lourdes.

No bags to be left unattended Be aware of unusual behaviour in others. Details of assembly point will be given by verbal communication – meet back at our hotels. Details of emergency procedure (Run, hide, tell etc.) is included in the pilgrimage handbook.

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	Pilgrimage Director, Youth Coordinator, President of Hospitality and Lourdes Planning Group to ensure that Lourdes Pilgrimage assembly location is discussed and relayed to all personnel in the event of an attack or evacuation emergency.
2	Pilgrimage Director, Youth Coordinator, President of Hospitality and Lourdes Planning Group to check the above control measures in place and highlight any changes.

Acts of Terrorism

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons Exposed to Harm	How Persons may be Harmed
Explosion Falling Debris Disorientation Noise Flying Debris Shooting, stabbing Vehicle borne improvised explosive device	**Medium Risk**	All	Slips, Trips and Falls, Injury to head, body, broken bones, dislocations, wounds, sprains strains, grazes, head injuries. Explosive Injuries Deafness Shock Burns, scalds Trapped (Building Collapse)

Purpose

Responding to an act of terror during the 2025 Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Risk Assessment and Practical Response Guide

Introduction

This document has been complied on behalf of the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle pilgrimage to Lourdes. It is intended as a Risk Assessment for the potential of a terrorist attack during the pilgrimage and to give protective security advice to those responsible for the pilgrimage in order that specific measures can be implemented to do as much as possible to protect pilgrims in the event of an attached.

It is heavily reliant on information obtained via the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the **National Counter Terrorism and Security Office** (NaCTSO). Finally, it is accepted that the concept of absolute security is almost impossible to achieve in combatting terrorism, therefore through the use of this guide, it is intended to provide some reasonable steps to educate, advise and inform pilgrims about what to do in an attack.

Copies of this document are issued to the following: **Pilgrimage Planning Group/Diocesan Health & Safety Officer**.

Threat Level

CURRENT THREAT LEVEL WITHIN FRANCE

Advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Terrorists are very likely to try to carry out attacks in France. Attacks could be indiscriminate. Due to ongoing threats to France by Islamist terrorist groups, and recent French military intervention against Daesh (formerly referred to as ISIL), the French government has warned the public to be extra vigilant and has reinforced its own domestic and overseas security measures. You should be vigilant in public places and follow the advice of local French authorities.

There have been a number of high profile terrorist attacks since 2015 across France. On 13 November 2015 terrorist attacks killed 130 and injured hundreds more at multiple sites across Paris. On 14 July 2016, 84 people were killed when a truck was driven through a crowd of people on the promenade in Nice. On 26th July, 2016 a Catholic Priest was murdered by two IS militants while celebrating Mass. On 3 February 2017, a knife attack inside the Louvre museum complex in Paris injured a French soldier; the attacker was arrested. On 6 June 2017, police shot a man after he attacked a police officer with a hammer outside the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

There have been a number of explosions, failed explosions and other attacks in Corsica. Government buildings, restaurants, police vehicles, bars, a discotheque and holiday homes have been targeted. The authorities believe the Corsican nationalist group the FLNC are responsible.

There's a heightened threat of terrorist attack globally against UK interests and British nationals from groups or individuals motivated by the conflict in Iraq and Syria. You should be vigilant at this time.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office advise all UK nationals to be highly vigilant at this time.

Risk of Attack

RISK OF TERRORIST ATTACK IN LOURDES

Potential target identification factors.

Religious context

The Roman Catholic Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes receives approximately 6 million visitors each year. Second only to Rome, it is the largest pilgrimage destination in Europe.

In the current context of random attacks by groups or individuals sympathetic to ideologies such as those espoused by ISIS, it is not unreasonable to expect that an attack on a high profile Christian shrine where large crowds are gathered, especially given the murder of a Catholic priest in July, 2016.

Political situation

The participation by France in US-led coalition operations against Islamic group ISIS has provided sufficient ammunition by fighters to single out France among other nations as a potential target. The progress of coalition operations is cited as one potential explanation for random, unexpected attacks on public gatherings or social events.

Successive French governments have taken a hard line on issues regarding the wearing of religious dress in accordance with some Islamic practices have antagonised militants and the deep routed issues regarding the integration of minority groups has also given rise to 'home-grown' terrorists plotting targeted attacks.

Geographic situation

Being in the Basque region of France the town of Lourdes has long been a potential target of terrorism mainly through the regional separatist group ETA. There have been historic attempts by ETA to cause disruption to the sanctuary of Lourdes in order to gain international attention.

Security Services

Finally, there have been accusations that the French Security Services are overly bureaucratic, fragmented and gravely under-resourced.

There has been arguments against the higher levels of security within the Domain area of Lourdes, leading to upset pilgrims voicing and complaining of the actions by the security measures, thus making the security of persons within Lourdes difficult through no fault of the French Police and security.

The above are just a brief summary of the current context in France which make the likelihood of further terror attacks as "Medium to High" (FCO June, 2018.)

This has further brought to our attention with the recent attack on a Mosque in New Zealand, and has left religious communities more aware than ever of the potential for their places of worship and their ministers to become targets of violence.

Current Controls

Controls Measures in Place

WHAT TO DO IN A TERRORIST ATTACK

The following information is collated from advice given from NaCTSO, the Security Services and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It has been adapted to provide some guidance for pilgrims in Lourdes.

Threat level - HIGH

1. **STAY SAFE : Terrorist Firearms and Weapons Attacks**

Considering the scale and population of France, Firearms and Weapons attacks remain rare in France; however, they have been a recurring pattern in recent attacks in the country.

The 'STAY SAFE' principles tell you some simple actions to consider at an incident and the information that armed officers may need in the event of a weapons or firearm attack:-

RUN

- Escape if you can
- Consider the safest options
- Is there a safe route? RUN if not HIDE
- Can you get there without exposing yourself to greater danger?
- Insist others leave with you
- Leave belongings behind

HIDE

- If you can't RUN, HIDE
- Find cover from gunfire
- If you can see the attacker, they may be able to see you
- Cover from view does not mean you are safe, bullets go through glass, brick, wood and metal
- Find cover from gunfire e.g. substantial brickwork / heavy reinforced walls
- Be aware of your exits
- Try not to get trapped
- Be quiet, silence your phone
- Lock / barricade yourself in
- Move away from the door

TELL

- Call 112 - What do the police need to know?
- Location - Where are the suspects?
- Direction - Where did you last see the suspects?
- Descriptions – Describe the attacker, numbers, features, clothing, weapons etc.
- Further information – Casualties, type of injury, building information, entrances, exits, hostages etc.
- Stop other people entering the building if it is safe to do so.

ARMED POLICE RESPONSE

In the event of an attack, it is likely that any police or military personnel deployed may not speak sufficient English. Therefore, do you best to listen and if you do not understand look towards gestures and signals from officers.

- Remain calm
- Follow officers instructions or gestures and directions.
- Can you move to a safer area?
- Avoid sudden movements that may be considered a threat
- Keep your hands in view

OFFICERS MAY

- Point guns at you
- Treat you firmly
- Question you
- Be unable to distinguish you from the attacker
- Officers will evacuate you, when it is safe to do so

You must STAY SAFE

- What are your plans if there were an incident?
- What are the local plans? e.g. personal emergency evacuation plan

2. Vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) and vehicle-based attacks.

VBIEDs can be highly destructive. Not only can the bomb blast be lethal, but flying debris, such as glass, can present a hazard.

VBIEDs can carry a large quantity of explosives to a target and cause a great deal of damage. The device can be delivered at a time of the terrorist's choosing, with reasonable precision (depending on defences). It can be detonated from a safe distance using a timer or remote control, or can be detonated on the spot by a suicide bomber.

The UK has a history of VBIED-based terrorist attacks which used fertiliser-based explosives dating back to the early 1970s. In 1998 in Omagh a device containing agricultural fertiliser (ammonium nitrates) was detonated, killing 29 people and injuring hundreds. In 1996 in Manchester, a device made from a mixture containing agricultural fertiliser devastated the city.

Also both in France and in the UK large vehicles have been used as methods of causing mass casualty attacks by simply steering into crowds of people in large gatherings.

In Lourdes significant measures have been implemented to restrict and control the areas where vehicles, especially larger vehicles can travel. Moreover, given the large quantity of traffic and these new controls the ability to use a vehicle at speed is greatly reduced.

3. Suicide attacks

Suicide bombing is a very effective method of delivering an explosive device to a specific location. Suicide bombers may use a vehicle as a bomb or may carry or conceal explosives on themselves. The most likely targets are symbolic locations, key installations, VIPs or crowded places.

Explosions using homemade explosive devices have caused fatalities, injuries, and damage on a massive scale. The suicide bombers in the 2005 London attacks used precursor chemicals (in particular peroxide-based explosives) and killed 52 people and injured hundreds, many severely.

On the 22nd May, 2017 22 people were killed as a result of an Islamist suicide bomber exploding a device at the Manchester Arena.

Volunteers and pilgrims should

- Be briefed to look out for anyone behaving suspiciously or for suspicious-looking vehicles or items
- Report any issues to the appropriate person, be that their senior leader, or the emergency services

Actions (Please see Action Planner for suggested time frames for completion)

Priority	Actions
1	Copies of this document are to be issued to the following: **All within the Lourdes Pilgrimage Core Group and to the Diocesan Health and Safety Officer**

Proforma

Activity/Role: Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026	**Date:** Feb 2026 **Version:** 006 **Discussion Date:** 25th Feb 2026	**Completed By:** Tracy Young **Reviewed By:** Jonny Henry and Thomas Linsey

Key Review Date	Further Actions from Discussion	Actioned By
February 2023	**Covid quarantine measures not compulsory. Standard infection controls in place**	
July 2024	**In line with taking Youth section**	**Tracy Young and Jonny Henry**
Feb 2026	**In line with increased number and new Leadership team**	**Thomas Linsey and Jonny Henry**

Purpose

To look at the risk presented by the continued presence of Covid-19 infection to the Diocesan Pilgrimage 2026

Risk to All Pilgrims

Hazards	Risk Rating	Persons 'At Risk'	How Persons may be Harmed
	Medium	**Unvaccinated**	

Exposure to Covid-19 by: **Travel:** Independent travel to & from airport; Busy airport; enclosed aircraft cabin **During pilgrimage:** Numbers of pilgrims in Lourdes/crowds Contact with youth or other asymptomatic carriers Provision of intimate care – close contact **Extended Stay** Assisted Pilgrims who contract Covid-19 on pilgrimage and may require hospitalisation will require careful assessment and discussion along with relatives prior to acceptance into Accueil (if family members not available to stay in Lourdes).	**Medium**	**Over 80** **Study in vaccinated adults June 2021:** • **Down's syndrome (12.7-fold)** • **Kidney transplantation (8.1-fold)** • **Sickle cell disease (7.7-fold)** • **Chemotherapy (4.3-fold),**	Contracting Covid-19 Quarantine – self-isolation or in hospital Not fit for return travel to UK Death
	Medium	**Malnourished or obese** • **HIV/AIDS (3.3-fold),** • **liver cirrhosis (3.0-fold),** • **neurological conditions** • **(2.6-fold),** • **recent bone marrow transplantation or a solid organ transplantation ever (2.5-fold),** • **Dementia (2.2-fold),** • **and Parkinson's disease (2.2-fold)**	
	Lower Risk	**Chronic kidney disease,** • **blood cancer,** • **epilepsy,** • **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,** • **coronary heart disease,** • **stroke,** • **atrial fibrillation,** • **heart failure,** • **thromboembolism,** • **peripheral vascular disease,** • **and type 2 diabetes**	

Current Controls (March 2023)

Control Measures in Place
All pilgrims encouraged to be fully vaccinated. **Full medical assessment and acceptance of Accueil pilgrims with acceptable risk, who understand the risks involved.** **A combination of co-morbidities may put someone in a higher risk category**

Use of face coverings as per local guidelines Compliance with local and national guidance Regular thorough handwashing Provision of suitable hand sanitising gels/handwashing facilities Use of PPE where appropriate Self -solation advised for 5 days if positive test result, or actions in line with French Government guidelines Helpers with positive lateral flow test to have no contact with Accueil pilgrims until negative lateral flow test recorded. Valid EHIC or GHIC essential

Actions

Priority	Actions
1	Lead Nurses liaise and assess assisted pilgrims applying to join pilgrimage, via medical information obtained from pilgrimage medical form and home assessment. Consider increased risk of (Covid-19) disease severity/morbidity Consider co-morbidities. Ensure pilgrim (and in some cases their families) understanding of risk of joining pilgrimage. Consider not taking pilgrims with high dependency needs.

From 1 August 2022, COVID-19 travel restrictions for travellers to France were lifted. The rules that previously applied to travellers going to France no longer apply:

- you are no longer required to present proof of vaccination.
- you are no longer required to fill out any forms prior to your arrival in France, such as a justification for travel or a sworn statement
- you are no longer required to show proof of a negative PCR or antigen test upon arrival in France

However, travel advice is subject to rapid change. Countries may change entry requirements and close their borders at very short notice.

All Pilgrims and registered helpers should ensure they have adequate travel health insurance. If visiting European Union (EU) countries carry an European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) as this will allow access to state-provided healthcare in some countries, at a reduced cost, or sometimes for free. The EHIC or GHIC, however, is **not** an alternative to travel insurance.

Covid Infection on Pilgrimage

Whilst there are no Covid-19 restrictions in place it is everyone travelling must be aware of the process that follows a positive test whilst on Pilgrimage.

- For everyone who develops symptoms of Covid-19 a lateral flow test must be completed
- Following a positive result the Pilgrim is advised to remain isolated for 5 days. Return travel with the Pilgrimage on flight is allowed but a FFP3 mask must be used. These will be available from the Lead Nurse.

Volunteers

- Registered helpers must accept responsibility for determining their own physical ability to join the pilgrimage as a volunteer, considering any underlying medical conditions they may have, which could be adversely affected by travelling to Lourdes and assisting on pilgrimage.
- Some underlying medical conditions may place registered helpers at higher risk during the on-going presence of Covid-19 infection.
- If you are unsure, you should discuss this with your own GP or consultant before booking.

Accueil pilgrims

- Those travelling to Lourdes who need assistance or care are generally deemed to be more vulnerable than the younger, healthier members of pilgrimage group.
- There may be some specific medical conditions that place a pilgrim at higher risk.
- Mask wearing is optional for Accueil Pilgrims.

Severity (Consequence)	
Negligible (Slight Bruising, Soreness or Slight Burn) First Aid Required	1
Slight (Minor Injury, Bruising or Slight Sprain) First Aider Required	2
Moderate (Fracture, Serious Injury or Severe Burn) Accident and Emergency Hospital	3
High (Hospitalisation, Major Injury, Disablement) Hospitalisation	4
Very High (Death, Fatality, Life changing Disability, Closure)	5

RISK / PRIORITY INICATOR MATRIX						
LIKELIHOOD	5	5	10	15	20	25
	4	4	8	12	16	20
	3	3	6	9	12	15
	2	2	4	6	8	10
	1	1	2	3	4	5

Likelihood	
Highly Unlikely, Improbable, Very Unlikely	1
Unlikely	2
Possible, Potential, May Happen	3
Highly Likely to cause Injury	4
Unavoidable, Almost Certain, Imminent	5

	1	2	3	4	5
	SEVERITY (CONSEQUENCE)				

Summary		Suggested Timeframe
21-25	V High	**STOP** Immediately **DO NOT** Undertake the Task look and at an alternative process
13-20	High	Requires immediate action Implement of further measures within 1 to 4 weeks (Possible cessation of service or works)
6-12	Medium	Within next 1 – 3 Months
1-5	Low	Whenever viable to do so 3 – 9 Months

If the severity is assessed as 2, and likelihood assessed as 3, then the risk classification will be 2 x 3 = 6 – Medium