

Determinations Sheet – Xavier Thomas

Xavier Thomas was unlawfully killed.

On 3 June 2017, Xavier Thomas was visiting London. He had been walking south across London Bridge with his partner, Christine Delcros. They had reached a point about midway across the Bridge when a Renault van was driven deliberately towards them and other pedestrians on the pavement. This was part of a terrorist attack. Xavier was struck by the front offside of the van with significant impact. Christine was struck by the van as well. He was thrown over the balustrade of the Bridge into the River Thames below, falling from a height of at least 13 metres. Xavier died immediately or almost immediately upon entering the water. A search was carried out by the Coastguard and Metropolitan Police Service, the first boat arriving approximately seven minutes after Xavier entered the water. Xavier was probably not on the surface of the water during the search. Xavier's body was recovered from the River Thames on 6 June 2017. He was assessed as dead by a police officer.

Multiple warning signs about the extremist views and conduct of one attacker were known to a number of his close family members in the months and years before the attack. In the main these were not reported to the authorities.

One of the attackers was a Subject of Interest under active investigation by the Security Service at the time of attack and for around two years before it. He was subject to surveillance in varying degrees but was not the subject of live monitoring in the days immediately before the attack. The other attackers had not been identified before they carried out the attack together.

At the time of the attack described above, there was no form of physical protective security on London Bridge, despite the fact that it was a location which was particularly vulnerable to a terrorist attack using a vehicle as a weapon. There were weaknesses in systems for assessing the need for such measures on the bridge and implementing them promptly. Absent such weaknesses, suitable hostile vehicle mitigation measures may have been present.