

# Leytonstone terror attack: Knifeman may have wanted to behead victim, witnesses fear

More about the Leytonstone attack from the [Financial Times](#): Raffaello Pantucci, director of international security studies at the Royal United Services Institute, said the risk of lone actor style terrorists had been present for some time but the authorities had become more worried since the Paris attacks in November.

“Attacks tend to generate copycats,” he said. “We’ve seen these sorts of incidents in a lot of different contexts of late, in Canada, France and Australia. You have basically disaggregated, random people who decide to launch this sort of low-grade attack espousing ideology that immediately connects them to a group – without the group necessarily having been involved.”

He added that the speed with which the police declared this to be a terrorist attack suggested the man may already have been known to them.

*Police are currently searching an address in east London.*