

Manchester Arena inquiry: Bomber appeared in at least 18 MI5 investigations, inquiry hears

From [the inquiry heard.](#)

Four British Transport Police (BTP) operatives were present on the night of the attack, one PC and three PCSOs, patrolling in pairs, the hearing in Manchester was told. It heard PC Jessica Bullough and PCSO Mark Renshaw took a break at about 19:30 BST, leaving Manchester Arena to buy food, as the Ariana Grande concert began on 22 May 2017.

They returned 45 minutes later and resumed patrolling two hours and 10 minutes after they first departed to buy food, the inquiry heard. Two more PCSOs, Jon Morrey and Lewis Brown, took an hour's break from 21:15.

Between 21:15 and 21:37, it appeared no BTP officer was patrolling the railway station, when Abedi took up his position at 21:33 in the foyer of the venue, the inquiry heard. Earlier, the two PCSOs had conducted a routine check on toilets at Victoria Station at 20:49, less than a minute after Abedi left there. Salman Abedi, dressed in black and bent over by the weight of the home-made bomb in a large rucksack, later made his way to the foyer where he detonated the explosive, killing 22 people.

To be fair to the officers on the ground the concert was a safe one from a policing point of view; a pleasant young woman singer with an audience of wholesome girls chaperoned by their mothers and older sisters. Not a gig likely to produce knife fights between rival drug dealers, or [Patrick Gibbs QC, who is representing the British Transport Police \(BTP\)](#) said that the

BTP had no intelligence about Abedi, despite him being known to the security services and counter-terrorism police.