

Russia refuses to blame IS for concert hall attack despite growing evidence

Four suspects from Tajikistan appear in court as IS releases new footage corroborating its claim to be behind atrocity

The Kremlin has declined to comment on growing evidence that the Afghan branch of Islamic State (IS), known as Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP), masterminded the terrorist attack on the Crocus City concert hall in Moscow that left 137 people dead.

Asked by reporters whether the Kremlin recognised IS was behind the attack, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov said: "You ask a question related to the progress of the investigation. We do not comment on that in any way. We have no right to do so. But we urge you to rely on the information provided by our law enforcement agencies."

Reporters also asked why Vladimir Putin and Russian authorities did not mention IS as a possible organiser of the attack.

"The investigation continues. No solid theory has been announced just yet. This is only a matter of preliminary information," Peskov said.

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