

PROTECTING THE BUILDING

Building shell

Generally the shell of a building (bricks and mortar) will be reasonably robust, however as evidenced by some ram raid activity – a heavy vehicle will breach even a wall under appropriate circumstances. Strategically placed anti ram posts, or even decorative planters and raised flower beds, can be used to minimise the risk of ram raid attack.

Alarms / monitoring

Installation of an insurance approved alarm is an obvious security measure. Police response to alarm activation has over recent years been influenced by high levels of false activation and ACPO policy is under almost continuous review. Check with Police and Insurers for current requirements / policies, however it should be taken as read that as a minimum requirement, the alarm should be monitored (bells only alarms will not invoke Police response) and have remote verification capability.

Remote view CCTV transmission systems offer organisations an easy and now affordable 'In house' method of monitoring buildings from a central site or office.

PROTECTING DOORS AND WINDOWS

Doors and windows are naturally vulnerable and logical attack points and glass walls as used in some modern structures may not be as robust as bricks and mortar.

Doors

External doors (and door frames) should be robust units and fitted with insurance approved locks. Where appropriate, steel cladding or proper security doors should be considered and remember to ensure that door frames are reinforced where necessary to ensure that they do not become the weak point. The opening edge of a door can be fitted with an anti jemmy strip to protect the lock against being forced with a jemmy, whilst the hinged edge of the door can be strengthened by use of simple yet effective hinge bolts. The monitoring of visitors can be aided by the installation of a wide angle door viewer through the door, video or audio-phone door entry system, or by the installation of a strategically placed CCTV camera. Glazed doors can be fitted with an internal grille for added security, whilst an anti arson mail collector box could be fitted to the inside of the door to protect against arson attack.



Windows

Fitting internal or external security bars or grilles can greatly enhance the security of windows, whilst fitting window locks, restricting the opening distance of the window, will also aid security. Anti vandal screens such as 'Crimeshield' fitted over the outside of the window look attractive and offer effective protection against stone or even air gun attack on the glass. Remember that when fitting security bars or grilles, the overall level of security will be enhanced by using security screws or fixings for the installation. Curtains, blinds or privacy window film applied to the internal surface of windows will help to prevent curious eyes from seeing that there is valuable equipment housed inside!