



SUSSEX POLICE

Advice for Businesses

We are committed to making your neighbourhood a safe place to live, work, visit and do business.

We listen and talk to our communities and work with partners to find lasting solutions to the crime issues that affect them.



Crime Prevention

There are some steps that you can take to protect your business and reduce the chances of being a victim of crime.

Outside Appearance

A well-maintained exterior to your premises, free of graffiti and rubbish, will give out the message that the premises are well looked after and reduce the likelihood of criminals targeting your business.

Whilst you will need to arrange removal of graffiti from your own premises, you can inform your local council if there is graffiti in the vicinity (but not on your property) and they will make arrangements to have it removed.

Review your security set-up

- Identify areas that may be **vulnerable to forced entry** and rectify these.
- Ensure service doors are **locked and secure** when not in use.
- Ensure that you have a monitored and fully operational **alarm**.
- Review your **CCTV** to confirm that it is operational, provides good quality images and covers your vulnerable areas.
- Make sure that you have a list of **key holders** who can be contacted in case of emergency.
- Consider moving **high value goods** away from window displays overnight.
- Try not to keep **cash** on the premises and use a **safe** with a time lock.
- Ensure that stock rooms are **locked** and stock is kept out of sight.
- Ensure your **keys** are not left in the shop and that only designated staff have access to them.

- Consider the **environment** – e.g. are there overgrown bushes that could help someone hide from view, or wheelie bins that could help them gain access?
- Ensure that there is sufficient **lighting** around the premises – especially loading areas.
- Consider that the presence of any **combustible materials** left outside premises, such as packaging, that could create an arson fire risk.



Physical protective measures

- Doors and windows are particularly vulnerable – use security rated products.
- Lockable internal security blinds and shutters are recommended as a prevention tool – installed behind external facing windows, and in front of high value goods cabinets.
- Alternatives are laminated glass or security film that can be applied to existing glass to make it more resistant.
- An insurance rated safe should be bolted down to the floor. Anti-tamper sensors can be fitted to set off an alarm if attacked.
- Anti ram raider bollards mounted externally can be used to protect frontages but may require planning approval.
- Smoke-generating devices which will activate on entry can be used.

To help prevent crime in your area and against your business consider joining a '**Business Watch**' or '**Shop Watch**' scheme.

What to do in the event of protests near your premises

Protests on Public land

Sussex Police is fully aware of the potential impact of any demonstrations on the local community and is well-equipped to deal with events should it be required.

The majority of protests are peaceful and under Human Rights legislation they are to be facilitated on public land unless certain exceptions apply.

The core role of the police in this situation is to:

- Minimise and detect crime
- Prevent or stop breaches of the peace
- Regulate traffic if required
- Activate a contingency plan where there is an immediate threat to life and co-ordination of resultant emergency service activities

Protests within Private Property

If a protest takes place on private property then the primary responsibility for the security of the property and the management of any trespass within the premises rests with the land owner or company.

The venue being open to the public implies an invitation to all persons but the land owner, manager or representative of the company can withdraw this invitation at any time if required.

Should there be an incursion onto your premises that is not disorderly and police are requested to attend, it should be stressed that the officers attending will expect a representative of the premises to request those trespassing to leave, whilst in the presence and hearing of the officer.

If the representatives are asked to assist in the ejection of the trespassers then they are acting as an agent of the company or premises and have no more powers and privileges than that of an ordinary member of the public. They would look to stand by to prevent a breach of the peace whilst the persons are encouraged to leave and escorted onto public land.

If there are criminal offences apparent then officers will deal with these as they would in any normal situation.



Sec 68 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Aggravated Trespass)

With reference to alternative legislation, 'mass action to disrupt the normal operation of the premises', the senior officer present may seek to use powers under Section 68 of the above.

They would look to the land manager to support this process by providing confirmation of the manner in which the business is being affected and that they are willing to provide a statement and attend court if necessary. Any CCTV in relation to the incursion would also need to be provided to the police at the earliest opportunity.

The practical aspect of this would be that a person in a position of decision-making ability in the company is willing and able to state in the presence of the person(s) that they reasonably believe that the person(s) have trespassed on private property and that they have acted/ are acting in a manner which is disruptive to the normal business of the store.

Protecting your business from protests and trespass

You can help to protect your business by taking a few sensible precautions. The following is a list of things to consider and is by no means exhaustive:

- Premises should be adequately staffed with **prominent management present** who can make themselves identifiable to police in the event of an incursion.
- Where possible **security officers** should have a visible presence on the premises.
- Ensure that all staff have completed the **appropriate training** across all site specific security equipment.
- All staff should remain vigilant and **report any suspicious activity** to security and / or police.
- Consider minimising the number of **entry points** to your building.
- Ensure building perimeters are **clear of any debris**, dustbins, ladders or loose tools and equipment that could assist entry.
- Check that your **emergency equipment** / grab bags / first aid supplies and radio communications systems are stocked and fully operational.
- Check and test your building **security and emergency systems**.
- Ensure all members of staff are fully aware of any **emergency / evacuation procedures**.
- If you have staff that use **Body Worn Cameras**, ensure they are operational, and all staff are trained in their use.
- If your building has **scaffolding** erected, or is in close proximity to scaffolding, then security staff should be aware of its potential for aiding access.

Contacting the Police

- If you fear for the immediate safety of your staff and property or it's an emergency please dial **999**
- Please dial **101** to contact the police in non-emergency situations or to report a crime
- Or alternatively, you can report online at: www.police.uk

Always report crime to the Police

This allows police to capture the data and understand the full scale of the crime, which in turn informs their resources and tactics to tackle it.

For more advice from the Police:

- To keep yourself and business informed about events in real time, please follow Sussex Police across social media such as X, Facebook, and Instagram.
- More advice about protest can be found by visiting the National Business Crime Centre Website www.nbcc.police.uk
- Increase your counter terrorism awareness with the award winning eLearning available on Protect UK. Visit www.protectuk.police.uk





Report online at **www.sussex.police.uk** or **call 101**.
In an emergency always **call 999**.

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