

High Value Burglaries.

As a force we appear to being targeted across the 11 boroughs.

The team appear to be hitting rural type locations with large properties within the more affluent areas of the boroughs, the majority of which have large gardens that have areas fenced and other sections not so well fenced.

Create a living fence.

A fencing is good, but a fence with thorny or spiky plants on top is even better. Let nature lend a helping hand in creating an effective anti-burglar boundary on the property of any fencing, and especially around any side access points. Stocking up on “defensive” plants such as:

- Berberis
- Osmanthus
- Forget
- Poncirus
- Crataegus
- Pyracantha
- Aralia
- Chaenomeles
- Ribes
- Oplopanax
- Elaeagnus
- Robinia
- Colletia
- Ilex
- Climbing roses
- Maclura
- Mahonia
- Ligustrum (privet), or laurel
- Smilax and Zanthoxylum
- Hawthorn

- Roses

All of which can help create an impenetrable barrier that most burglars won't want to entertain.

Adding extra structures such as trellis on top of your fence. If this takes your fence to an overall height of over two metres, will require planning permission, if not sought it could mean in the future it has to be taken down.

However, growing a thorny plant along the top of a two-metre fence – provided it does not feature any support structures – does not require planning permission – unless there are local restrictions in place.

Clearly this kind of defence is not going to grow over night, but it will pay dividends in the longer term.

Alarm Systems

As a force we strongly recommend that all households have an intruder alarm, there are two national bodies that regulate the installation of alarms.

Technology keeps progressing in the Alarm industry, bring new systems in place to help reduce the risk of a burglary its recommended that you review your current system to ensure it is still fit for purpose.

Your alarm company are in the best place to give you guidance on your system on your annual maintenance service.

Nation Security Inspectorate approval is a highly respected and trusted hallmark in the security and fire sectors, demonstrating technical expertise and a reassuring quality of service.

<https://www.nsi.org.uk/>

The Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) is the leading certification body for organisations providing security systems and services, fire detection and alarm systems, telecare systems and services, manned security services and monitoring services.

SSAIB is a Security Industry Authority (SIA) approved certification body - in respect of the SIA Approved Contractors Scheme - that operates within the UK. We also offer certification for firms based in the Republic of Ireland as well.

and [SSAIB | Certification for Security Service Providers](#)

The following is taken from the NSI guidance.

What is Police response?

Police Policy is designed to ensure efficient deployment of responders to intruder alarms.

To obtain Police response to an alarm in the UK, it is essential to use the services of:
an approved installer recognised by the Police, and an approved Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC)

The Police require your alarm system to be installed and maintained routinely. Your NSI approved installer can do this.

Installers holding NSI Gold or Silver approval are recognised by the Police.

NSI approved installers will provide you with a contract covering alarm monitoring services provided by an NSI approved Alarm Receiving Centre, as well as maintenance, unless you choose otherwise. They will also provide:

A Certificate of Compliance to PD 6662 for your installation.

How a Police Unique Reference Number (URN) can be obtained. This means your alarm system will be registered with your local Police Force.

You can check the authenticity of the company by asking to see its Certificate of Approval or check on the NSI Company Finder.

The Police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland will only register and respond to alarm systems that meet the requirements of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC).

In the UK, excluding Scotland, the Police commit to immediate response (subject to priorities). However, Immediate response will be withdrawn following three false alarm calls in a rolling twelve-month period.

Reinstatement of response can follow the identification of the cause of false alarms and demonstrating appropriate remedial action has been taken.

To receive Police response for a remotely monitored alarm system, any systems newly installed (since June 2019) must conform to PD 6662:2017 and BS 8243:2021. For systems installed prior to this date they must conform to PD 6662:2010 and BS 8243.

NSI approved CCTV installers

NSI companies approved to design, install, commission and maintain CCTV surveillance systems must comply with NSI's Code of Practice NCP 104. By choosing an independently approved company working to the rigorous requirements of NCP 104 you can be assured of an expert assessment of security risks and operational needs along with a detailed design proposal to ensure your exacting individual needs can be met.

NSI approved companies will always adopt a systematic and comprehensive approach to addressing CCTV Security needs and associated Network Security threats. If the proposed system is linked to a local area network, then a security protocol should be designed into the solution to protect the CCTV system and your image data from cyber-attacks.

To enable you to manage your system and retrieve and export any images, and use Apps if any, the security company should provide you with training on the system when it is handed

over and provide all the user documentation necessary to ensure you can continue to operate and maintain the system effectively.

Care does need to be taken that the privacy of your neighbours or the general public is not invaded. Your NSI approved company will be able to advise you how to meet all of the recommended guidelines. You can also check the data protection legislation at the Information Commissioner's Office website.

Do you know how the law could impact usage of a visual surveillance system (CCTV) installed at your home?

We would recommend anyone considering CCTV should look at some guidelines provided by the Information Commissioner Office: <https://ico.org.uk/your-data-matters/domestic-cctv-systems-guidance-for-people-using-cctv/>

CCTV maintenance contract

Once commissioned and a maintenance contract is agreed, NSI approved companies installing CCTV systems will operate Service Level Arrangements (SLAs) and respond to a fault with your system within a specified period – typically 24 hours.

As part of any CCTV maintenance plan your installer will be able to advise on when software and firmware updates are available and if there are any security tasks that you should carry out to ensure the system remains reliable and secure.

Remember that wireless devices require battery power to function, and any maintenance contract needs to make clear where responsibility and cost lies for preventive maintenance, battery replacement, as well as secure storage for images.

You will also need to consider maintenance of lighting in areas covered by CCTV. The current lighting standard for new Secure By Design developments is BS 5489-1:2013 – which is currently being reviewed.

CCTV is a deterrent and a means of capturing evidence of criminal activity e.g. intruders outside and inside your home.

There are many different domestic camera system solutions designed for different applications e.g. varying light levels, infrared, wide angled, high and medium definition etc.

The sophistication of your camera system including security of image storage, retrieval and remote monitoring and even Police response, depends on your precise needs.

Your NSI approved installer can explain the choices available to meet your exact requirements on your property and quote accordingly.

You can find an approved CCTV installer via the NSI Company Finder.

Should you need any further information or clarification please contact your local Designing Out Crime Officer details of these are.

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