

Designing Out Crime

DESIGNING IN SECURITY MEASURES

It has long been the policy of Greater Manchester Police Architectural Liaison Officers (ALO's) to become involved in offering security advice at the planning stage. Not only can it become cost effective it also ensures that a better standard of security is introduced at a very early stage of planning.

WHAT CAN BASIC SECURITY ACHIEVE?

Most burglaries are committed by 'opportunists' – someone who will take quick and easy advantage of the opportunities made available, such as windows left open OR not locked, doors left open or secured with totally inadequate locks or bolts. Basic security measures of good quality can help prevent these types of crime and in many cases prevents a more determined offender.

WHAT IS MEANT BY BASIC SECURITY?

Greater Manchester Police will always recommend good quality mortice locks OR rim locks, which conform to B.S. 3621 on all exterior doors (fire doors not included) and good quality key operated locks on ALL ground floor opening windows (not forgetting the windows which are over a flat roof and are easily accessible). Every manufacturer of window locks produces an excellent range to choose from. A valuable source of security information for building designers is www.securedbydesign.com.

WHAT ABOUT THE VERY SMALL OPENING WINDOWS?

It is very often the case that the very small toilet or kitchen window is the window, which is chosen by the offender to gain access to premises, and this type of window should not be overlooked when considering security measures.

WHAT ABOUT FIRE EXIT DOORS?

The final exterior fire exit door in the majority of cases is of solid timber construction and is outward opening. The locking devices are designed to afford easy exit from the premises. Very often these doors present a relatively easy target for the offender. There are several methods recommended to provide good security to these doors i.e. fitting hinge bolts to the hinge side of the door, metal plating the exterior face with 18swg sheet metal fixed with clutch head screws or cup head bolts and in some cases providing some form of electronic security. The external side of a fire exit door should exclude any handles etc.

GENERAL ADVICE

The advice offered above is directed at all types of premises, domestic, commercial or industrial where either new premises are being constructed or where major refurbishment is proposed.

Everyone who is planning new or major alterations to premises should seek security advice which can be available from: Insurance companies, locksmiths, professional security organisations OR the local Police Crime Reduction Advisors who can be contacted at Rochdale Police Headquarters (Tel: 0161 856 8446/ 8658).

The C.R.A. is there to help and advise on ALL security matters either physical or electronic security requirements AND the advice is FREE.

Greater Manchester Police Architectural Liaison Services offer free advice on how to make your schemes more secure. Why not talk to them before making your planning applications? It costs nothing but it could save you thousands.

Call: 0161 856 5912. Fax: 0161 873 8929.

Or write to: The Architectural Liaison Unit Community Affairs Branch, Greater Manchester Police, Chester House Boyer Street, Manchester M16 0RE

**DESIGNING OUT CRIME – IS COST EFFECTIVE
ASK YOUR BUILDER OR ARCHITECT TO SPECIFY THE TYPE OF HARDWARE FOR SECURITY
MEASURES PROPOSED FOR YOUR PREMISES**