

1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates



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#STOPKNIFECRIME

You may have seen this hashtag trending on Twitter recently. This is because between 12th and 16th February, London's Metropolitan Police Service, the British Transport Police and the City of London Police worked collaboratively on a new phase of 'OpSceptre'. Established in 2015, OpSceptre was introduced with the aim of reducing knife crime in London as well as reducing the number of families who are affected by it. It targets both knife users and suppliers and has seen some impressive results, helping to make our city a safer place to live and work.

By means of regular weapons sweeps, test purchase operations and stop and search, policing authorities have been able to not only confiscate knives but prosecute those found in possession.

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"There have been at least 35 fatal stabbings in London so far this year."

By law, anyone caught in possession of a knife twice will face a mandatory custodial sentence.

In addition to police efforts, there has also been an educational drive across London schools to prompt young people to consider their decisions and the consequences of those decisions, as well as seeking to deter them joining gangs or choosing a life of crime. Operations are continuous and we will follow the progress of OpSceptre with keen interest.

BURGLARY IN THE HOME COUNTIES

There have been at least 7 burglaries between 2014 and 2017, each approximately 6 months apart, which the authorities say could have been carried out by the same criminal. What is more unnerving is that this is no ordinary opportunist thief. The precision and planning, violence and methods of interrogation are reportedly more fitting to a trained professional, namely a person with military training.

The perpetrator typically targets expensive Home Counties properties, spending days and sometimes weeks observing the residents' routines; he seems to know the layout of the homes before entry and, armed with a sawn-off shot gun, he has so far managed to steal £1 million worth of valuables. This is a scary prospect for those living in expensive homes, who may have children at home and/or possess valuable jewellery and other high-value assets.

We suggest that if you are worried about this story, you seek the help of a professional security company. An alarm and CCTV may not be enough of a deterrent and you may want a physical security presence at home or a mobile or residential patrol to secure the area, who are trained and experienced in deterring such threats, to protect you and your family.



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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT HIRING SECURITY

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the regulatory body for private security companies, which checks each company's performance against agreed industry standards. It is illegal for a security company to work without this licence, so that is the first thing to check when hiring a security firm.

Another sign of reputability and trust is whether or not a company is a member of the SIA's Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS). The ACS recognises best practice in the industry, taking a holistic view and basing its judgement on nine contributory factors: including the quality of the company's people, resources, strategy and results, to name a few. So if you need a security presence make sure you find a reputable company, vetted by the SIA; ask if they are an Approved Contractor and always check their credentials.

INDUSTRY NEWS

The SIA recently published updates following the first phase of its review of the Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS). There are many issues currently being discussed and dialogue will continue across a three phase model. As an Approved Contractor, 1st Class Protection is considered one of the top security companies in terms of meeting these high standards across all nine categories set by the SIA. There has been some discussion as to how standards might be improved across the industry and the findings report that there is a desire to strengthen the eligibility criteria that companies must meet in order to be awarded the accolade of 'Approved Contractor'.

Like the SIA itself, we are fully committed to improvement and delivering security of the highest standard and we welcome further discussion of how standards can be raised and how we can adopt any new ideas and practices so to continue being credited as one of the best security providers.

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