



## 24 hr rapid response to secure and protect 51 depots across the UK

### BACKGROUND

As a result of continued losses, Ernst & Young LLP were appointed administrators of City Link Limited and City Link (Properties) No.1 Limited on December 24th 2014. City Link's network included a fleet of 1,700 parcel delivery vehicles, a national distribution centre, five regional hubs and over 50 depots. They employed over 2,500 staff.

Ernst & Young is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. Their restructuring professionals have been involved in many of the highest profile assignments in both the private and public sectors in the UK. More information on them can be found at [www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com)

### OVERVIEW

<b>SECTOR</b>	Transport Logistics
<b>CUSTOMER</b>	Ernst & Young
<b>SITE</b>	51 depots across the UK and Ireland
<b>CHALLENGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to secure multiple sites simultaneously</li> <li>• High profile and sensitive situation</li> </ul>
<b>SOLUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lock Changes</li> <li>• VPS SmartAlarms</li> <li>• VPS Inspections</li> </ul>

**“ The depots comprised some 1.6 million sq ft of space, and the timing of the closure, over the seasonal holiday, made it more challenging to complete the process of protecting and securing all the premises. We instructed VPS on 30th December and by the close of day on 31st all 51 depots had had SmartAlarms installed.”**

Charles King,  
Joint Administrator, Ernst & Young





## SECURITY AND PROTECTION CHALLENGE

The company entered administration on Christmas Eve, and the news was widely reported across the media over the next few days. Apart from the difficult news for their staff, some media reports carried details that there were over 30,000 parcels still being stored at their depots.

## SOLUTION

Recommendations for a range of security solutions were made and VPS SmartAlarms were installed at every site. The measures were backed up by warning signage to inform the public the site was being monitored, with regular reviews of the security levels and of any indications of attempted breaches.

These advanced alarms are stand-alone, and with a long-life battery so they do not require an external power source; they are only available through VPS, who designed and developed them in-house specifically for vacant properties. The VPS SmartAlarms communicate over the GSM network and do not require a phone line (like most fixed alarm systems do). The alarms are installed in tandem with wireless sensors, both internal and external, which communicate with the alarm unit. This provides instant detection and alerts on a range of incidents including intruders and flooding, allowing VPS monitoring station to facilitate rapid response to activations.

Vacant buildings and land are more vulnerable than occupied premises, and a prime target for unauthorised visitors such as vandals, trespassers, travellers and squatters. In all cases prevention is not only better than cure, but a far easier and more cost-effective option. VPS has built up a network of over 25 UK service centres from Glenrothes, north of Edinburgh, through to Exeter in the south.

Once the initial security operations were completed, the job didn't end there. The sites are monitored and reviewed to ensure the protection levels are meeting the requirements. VPS manage the access to the sites when required for the remaining activities in the administration process.

**“Once we received the instruction from Ernst & Young, we immediately mobilised our rapid response teams across the UK. Most of our UK and Northern Ireland service centres were involved in the operation, and to be honest, whilst we're delighted to have fulfilled the entire request for protecting all 51 depots within 24 hours, it was well within our capability.”**

Damien Frost,  
VPS Head of Insolvency

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