



VPS helps Council to protect properties for sale

BACKGROUND

Wiltshire Council was created in 2009, following the merger of Wiltshire County Council and three local District Councils, and serves a population of around 471,000 people.

Following the subsequent rationalisation that took place as part of the Council merger, around a dozen Council-owned properties were vacated and put up for sale, including a farmhouse, office blocks and two adult training centres.

SITUATION

These empty properties were highly vulnerable to both theft and vandalism. In the case of the farmhouse, it was in a remote location and quickly became the target for lead and copper theft, whereas the properties that were close to areas of social housing, fell victim to vandalism attacks.

Therefore, Wiltshire Council asked existing supplier VPS, to help protect each property until it was sold.

“It’s my role to keep the vacant properties safe until they are disposed of. The VPS alarms are extremely effective and have no wires or cables! Having steel screens on the doors and windows acts as a great deterrent to would-be intruders and vandals.”

Graham Jones
Maintenance Surveyor, Wiltshire Council

OVERVIEW

SECTOR	Local Authority
CUSTOMER	Wiltshire Council
CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly vulnerable properties due to location • Had previously suffered metal theft and vandalism
SOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPS SmartAlarm Gold with Verifeye Visual • VPS Steel Screens • VPS Security Doors





SOLUTION

VPS conducted a thorough risk assessment on each property either immediately or as it became vacant. The service recommendations typically included the following:

- A wireless, fully monitored SmartAlarm Gold to protect the interior, exterior and perimeter
- High security steel screens and doors, to keep all points of ingress on every floor, fully secure
- Weekly inspections to ensure that all of the installed security measures remained intact and to act as a visual deterrent

The VPS SmartAlarm Gold is our most advanced alarm unit. It is entirely stand-alone with a long-life battery and on-board tamper detection and as it is encased in the same material used in riot shields, it can withstand a high level of attack.

The VPS SmartAlarm Gold is installed in tandem with wireless PIR sensors, both internal and external, to instantly detect intruders, and smoke sensors to detect fire. The unit contains a moisture sensor to detect flooding and can also be used with our range of pressure mats, door sensors, remote keypads and other sensors, providing the most advanced security solutions on the market. When triggered, our new Verifeye video sensor captures up to 20 seconds of full colour video footage. This helps prevent unnecessary security response team call outs, as the monitoring station are able to immediately see who or what triggered the alarm.

To act as a further deterrent, the VPS alarms can be linked to a remote siren mounted on the exterior of the premises which provides both audible and visible indications that there is an alarm present.

The siren operates at 120 decibels, although this feature can also be turned off for covert monitoring if preferred, so as to cause minimum disruption or inconvenience to those in the vicinity of the property. If the alarm is triggered, our 24/7 national monitoring centre is instantly alerted and either dispatches our local roaming security response teams or contacts the client's designated key holder. On arrival, the response team will deal with any incidents and involve the authorities when necessary.

The steel doors and screens provided by VPS offer protection and a high-visibility deterrent that far surpasses the security offered by traditional timber panelling. In fact, they deliver a variety of benefits which include rapid fitting using robust materials and a mechanism that causes minimal impact to the fabric of the property.

The screens provided by VPS also contain perforations that allow light and air to circulate, while protecting from outside elements and prying eyes. They are secured with back bars and act as a visible and highly effective deterrent to thieves, intruders and squatters. They sit flush within the existing windows and do not leave any opening for objects to be pushed through or for the screen to be forced off. The screens come in a wide range of different sizes to fit most windows, however for irregular shaped openings, custom made steel is used.

OUTCOME

Since the security measures and weekly inspections have been put in place, Wiltshire Council has had no reported breaches to their properties. In some cases, this time period has been over 12 months.

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