



VPS helps to keep Oddfellows' property safe and secure

BACKGROUND

Oddfellows is the largest branch-based friendly society in the UK and celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2010.

As well as providing their members with services such as social networking, support, healthcare and advice, Oddfellows also run a property fund. This comprises of a varied portfolio, which includes shops, commercial property, offices and industrial units.

SITUATION

In 2011, a commercial property in Leigh, near Manchester, was vacated by its previous occupants. They had used the office accommodation to manage their security services operations whilst the hard-standing and garages on site were used to park and maintain their vehicles.

The location of the site meant that it was a prime target for theft and vandals. As it is close to a large area of social housing and a public footpath, it was not long before these concerns came true. Soon after becoming vacant, the property was broken into on several occasions. Copper wiring and cabling was stolen and as a result of the break-in and theft, damage was also caused to the property ceiling.

The insurance assessment that followed then required a number of remedial actions to be taken in order to improve security and keep the insurance cover in force. Given the lack of power to the property, a battery-operated wireless VPS SmartAlarm was the logical solution.

“We were delighted with the service that we have received from VPS. They know what they are doing and are really geared up to do it.”

Ian Ditchfield,
Oddfellows Friendly Society

OVERVIEW

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| SECTOR | Commercial Property Management |
| CUSTOMER | Oddfellows Friendly Society |
| CHALLENGES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site location prone to crime • Property had previously fallen victim to copper theft • Insurer's requirements stipulate security measures must be in place |
| SOLUTION | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPS SmartAlarm with external siren • VPS Steel Screens • VPS Steel Doors |





SOLUTION

As the property was without power, was highly accessible and very vulnerable, VPS stepped in to address the situation as a matter of urgency.

Following a thorough risk assessment, VPS recommended the following:

- Sufficient SmartAlarms and sensors in the outbuildings, the warehouse and office (near the electrical supply input), plus external sensors to monitor the exterior of the site
- High security steel screens and doors to keep all points of ingress fully secure

VPS SmartAlarms are entirely stand-alone with a long-life battery and on-board tamper detection. They are installed in tandem with wireless PIR sensors, both internal and external, to instantly detect intruders, and smoke sensors to detect fire. The unit also holds a moisture sensor to detect flooding. In addition, the alarm can be paired with door sensors and pressure mats, thus providing one of the most advanced security solutions on the market.

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. VPS steel doors can be fitted with either a pair of three-lever locks to give double-locking protection or with a digital security keypad for a keyless system option.

- High security steel doors come complete with piano hinges to ensure that the door cannot be removed. For ease of use with keyed doors VPS can provide one master key allowing you to gain access to multiple properties

- The digital keypad security doors are highly popular and add real value. Properties are accessed using either a colour or number coded keypad which comes with a hierarchy of codes (to control access for additional security). Thanks to the anti-vandal design, the keypads are as tough as they are convenient

The screens provided by VPS contain perforations that allow light and air to circulate, while protecting from outside elements and prying eyes. They are secured tightly to the property using back bars, so 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 to keep the access points secure.

OUTCOME

Once VPS were contacted, the SmartAlarm and sensors, steel screens and doors were fitted within the client's insurers requested time frame of a week. In the three months since the security measures were put in place, there have been a number of alarm activations from the rear of the property but no breaches. The combination of visible security and the SmartAlarm external siren act as a good deterrent. All activation reports are sent to the Managing Agent to keep them up to date with activity at the property.

“Due to the property location, we were very concerned that it was becoming a target for criminal activity, which was damaging to both the property and the local community. VPS met all the deadlines that the insurance company gave us and were great to work with.”

Tony Harrison,
Oddfellows Friendly Society

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