



MCB MUSLIM COUNCIL
OF BRITAIN

Guide to Protecting Mosques from **intruders**

26 October 2023

Why we've created this guide

This is a simple guide on what Mosque leaders should consider to improve their safety and security.

This guide focuses on protecting Mosques from burglary and break in.

Places of worship such as Mosques are not exempt from harm which can include break in, vandalism and burglary as well as damage to the property.

Experiencing theft can be traumatic for all involved and as Mosque trustees you **MUST** ensure you do all that is possible to protect life and property.

Please ensure there is no complacency and following processes are followed at all times to keep everyone safe.

Risk Assessment



Complete a risk assessment for your Mosque in terms of risk for burglary or break in to the Mosque.

Make a plan of action on mitigating risks identified



Review of current safety and security processes

- ✓ Arrange a security assessment by a professional company or experts to assess any areas of break in and how to mitigate the risk.
- ✓ Optimise safety and security processes at the Mosque
- ✓ Implement changes that reduce all risks to property and person



Lock doors and windows

- ✓ Ensure all windows, gates and doors are checked and locked at times of closure of the Mosque or when the mosque is unoccupied.
- ✓ Ensure windows and doors have burglar proof locks.
- ✓ Ensure all internal doors in the building are locked or access is via fobs so automatically close and remain closed when not in use.
- ✓ Ensure you do not have keys or passwords freely available for intruders or general public.
- ✓ Ensure there is a key and password use policy.



Functioning intruder alarm

- ✓ Ensure intruder alarm is fitted and working properly with a regular service plan.
- ✓ Alarm must be switched on if Mosque is not in use or switch on for separate zones if a large Mosque and if limited areas are open.
- ✓ Ensure alarm is activated each and every time the building is left unoccupied even for short periods as per your risk assessment.
- ✓ Ensure alarm is connected to a sim based phone system and calls people if alarm sounds including the police for extra safety.
- ✓ Consider an alarm system connected through a security company for added security.

Functioning CCTV



- ✓ Ensure cctv is installed covering all areas including access points, is working and serviced on a regular basis as this can deter burglars.
- ✓ Consider a cloud based system for CCTV.
- ✓ Ensure DVR box of used is securely placed and access is limited reducing risk of theft of this.

Keep valuables out of sight



- ✓ Keep valuables and money donation boxes out of sight at night if they are small and not fixed securely otherwise ensure donation boxes are securely placed so not easily removed.
- ✓ Ensure donation boxes are emptied on a regular basis
- ✓ Consider heavy secure donation boxes that are permanently fixed that cannot be moved or easily removed or broken into.
- ✓ Do not count money in front of others or inform people of where money is kept.
- ✓ Ensure all cash is banked immediately or next working day if late donations and do not kept on site in easily accessible points.
- ✓ When going to the bank to deposit money do not go alone and consider different routes each time.

External lighting

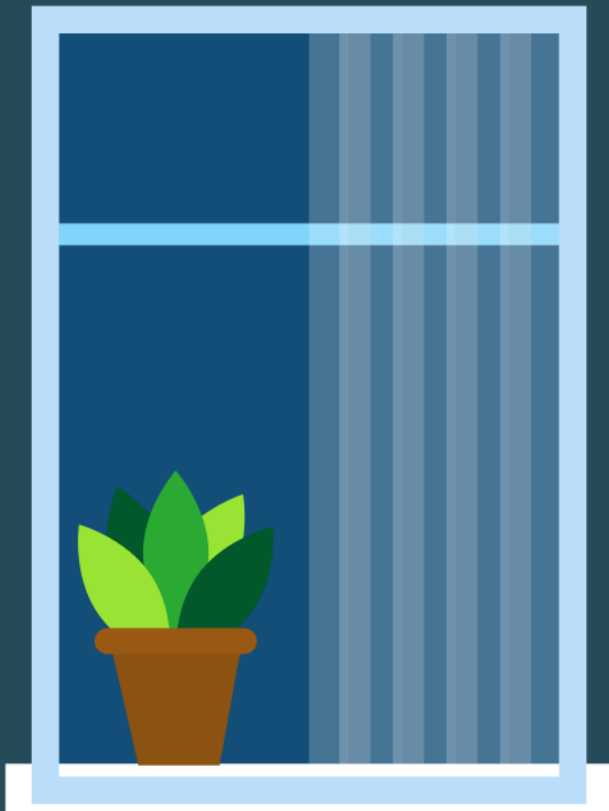


Ensure external lights are installed at the mosque or in the car park so intruders cannot enter without being seen and hence acting as a deterrent.



Consider adequate lighting is on at night with light sensors as needed

Contact neighbours and local residents



Inform neighbours if they see anything suspicious to make contact and keep a good relationship with your neighbours.



Ensure you have contact details for Neighbours and local residents so can be easily contactable



Insurance cover for the Mosque

- ✓ Please ensure the Mosque has the correct insurance cover and is insured at all times without any gaps.
- ✓ Register your valuable devices and valuables in case of theft.
- ✓ Ensure you have an asset register updated regularly



Checks at Mosque prior to locking up



Ensure only required space is open for prayers and all other doors are locked



When locking up at the mosque ensure at least 2 people check all rooms accessible to the congregation of any potential spots including Wudu and toilet areas



Ensure all intruder alarms are activated when building is empty and these alarms will call the police and set people



PO Box 57330, London, E1 2WJ, UK
admin@mcb.org.uk | 0845 26 26 786