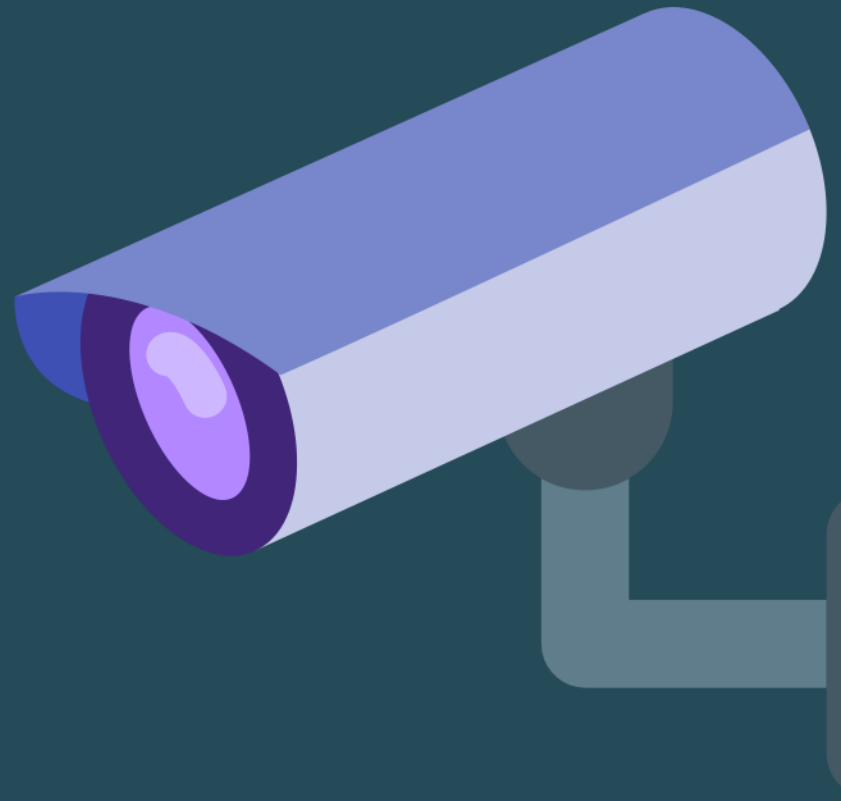




MCB MUSLIM COUNCIL
OF BRITAIN

Guidance on Mosque Safety and Security

26 October 2023

Why we've created this guide

Mosque leaders should consider to improve their safety and security.

This guide focuses on protecting Mosques during busy periods or at times of events and heightened Islamophobia which includes conflicts abroad.



Risk assessment & review of current security processes

- ⚠ Complete a risk assessment for your Mosque in terms of identifying all potential risks
- ⚠ Make a plan of action on mitigating risks identified
- ⚠ Arrange a security and safety review of the Mosque premises by a professional company or experts to manage new risks.
- ⚠ Optimise safety and security processes at the Mosque.
- ⚠ Implement changes that reduce all risks to property and person.



Planning meeting with local authorities

- ✓ Meet with the local council, local police and police community support officers (PCSO) staff to request more patrols around the Mosque area and regular visits during busy times such as Ramadan, Eid or at times of heightened Islamophobia due to conflicts abroad or another reason leading to an increased risk.
- ✓ Communicate with local authorities when events take place so they are aware, this includes Friday prayers too.
- ✓ Exchange contact details with local authorities in case of any problematic issues or support needed at busy times.
- ✓ Plan how to respond to an attack or any form of violence working with the local authorities and local support.
- ✓ Liaise with other local mosques to ensure all are able to support each other at times of emergencies and maintain local connections.



Hire security guards



Ensure you have all entrance points covered with security staff who are trained as security personnel or limit the entry points by securely locking other entry points



Consider volunteers to assist at covering access points and supporting security staff ensuring you arrange security training for volunteers if required

Meet and train volunteers



- ✓ Ensure all volunteers are vetted and recruited via a robust and safe process.
- ✓ Arrange a planning meeting and training of all volunteers prior to the event/busy period.
- ✓ Delegate roles and responsibilities for all volunteers in writing so all understand.
- ✓ Regularly engage and meet volunteers.
- ✓ Ensure all volunteers and staff wear hi vis vests and name badges with Mosque logos on so they can be easily identified as part of the Mosque team.
- ✓ Ensure a line of command at the Mosque so all can engage and remain in their remit and know who to contact if there are problems.
- ✓ Appoint a lead volunteer or volunteer manager.

Communicate Effectively



Ensure contact is kept between security team, volunteers inside and outside the Mosque building



Consider a panic alarm with a loud siren to be provided to volunteers especially if they may be alone at any time and ensure you have a walkie talkie/radio control system for all security personnel and volunteers for ease of communication



Regular reminders by the Imam and trustees to the congregation on safety and security



Encourage visitors to the Mosque to travel in small groups and not alone especially in the dark



Avoid Confrontation

- ✓ If there are any altercations or people being confrontational try to diffuse the situation and call the police for help immediately.
- ✓ Use techniques to avoid escalation of tensions.
- ✓ Ask for local team support if situation worsens especially if alone.

Functioning CCTV



- ✓ Ensure CCTV is installed covering all areas including inside the Mosque, external premises, car park and surrounding areas
- ✓ Make sure everything is fully functional and serviced on a regular basis as this can act as a deterrence.
- ✓ Consider cloud storage of CCTV and if using DVR stored safely so cannot be easily stolen
- ✓ Ensure the location of DVR is only known by key people

External lighting



- ✓ Ensure external lights are installed at the mosque and in the car park around the Mosque.
- ✓ Ensure some lighting is on at night so this acts as a deterrent and allows people to be easily seen in case of any intruders.
- ✓ Ensure lighting is fully functional and regularly checked.



Check Mosque premises before locking doors

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



Apply for a security grant

- ✓ Learn about the grant and application process via the following link:
<https://mcb.org.uk/faqs-protective-security-schemes-for-places-of-worship/#link-2>
- ✓ Consider an application for this scheme to enhance your security at the Mosque



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