

Keeping Small Retailers Secure



Irish Security
Industry Association



Earlier this year the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) was notified by An Garda Síochána that petrol/service stations have been burgled for cigarettes and cash. Several jewelers were also broken into. Members of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) were briefed on the detail of the incidents and An Garda Síochána requested they inform local Gardaí if they became aware of similar incidents.

A series of burglaries of shops have now occurred in Northern Ireland, with more than fifteen incidents of a similar modus operandi. Police in Northern Ireland suspect that the same gang may be responsible for the incidents carried out in the North.

To ensure all business in Ireland are kept secure and to mitigate against potential risks to small retailer security, the ISIA has prepared a list of useful tips to ensure your business is kept more secure.

Keeping Small Retail Premises Secure:

- Ensure all entrance points to the building are protected with the best security solution, locks and bolts. If there are roller shutters, ancillary locking devices such as Shutter Locking Ramposts or Ground Locks should be used.
- Ensure your cash safe is insurance rated for the appropriate amount.
- Consideration should be given to building a strong room/ Cash Office, where the safe, intruder panel & CCTV Recorder should be located.
- Use lighting to draw attention and deter criminals from approaching entrances.
- To allow for an appropriate response to a breach of security ensure that your alarm system is monitored by an Alarm Receiving Centre.
- Periodically test your premises alarm system with your Alarm Receiving Centre.
- You must only employ the services of a Private Security Authority (PSA) licenced alarm company to install and maintain electronic security systems. Also ensure that the intruder alarm system is serviced at least twice a year.
- Dual path intruder alarm signalling should be employed and connected to an Alarm Receiving Centre via, IP, GSM (Grade 3 or 4) or Radio backup.
- Ensure that your alarm has adequate coverage, particularly in voids above ceilings, where Point to Point beams may be employed.
- Vulnerable areas such as Cash Offices and where the intruder panel is located should have secondary devices to ensure a verified alarm is received by the monitoring centre
- If possible, install CCTV cameras which can be remotely monitored by an Alarm Receiving Centre and allow for the appropriate response should an incident occur.
- Limit the amount of cash stored on the premises or in ATM's.
- Leave tills empty and open when not in use.
- If using self-fill ATM's, consider a managed machine or use of a CIT company.
- Ensure ATM's are only filled just prior to opening and never conduct this activity in front of customers.
- Use signage that states there is a limited amount of cash on the premises.
- If CCTV is in use, ensure that signage is in place and complies with the requirements of GDPR.
- If you have doubts about your security, consider employing the services of an independent security consultant to carry out a review of your security.
- Your most important asset is yourself and your staff. Do not leave yourself exposed by responding to an alarm activation late at night. Ensure that the Gardai will be in attendance and consider employing the services of a Professional, Licensed Key-Holding Company.

Finding a Supplier

Combining a number of security solutions is the best approach when securing a premises. Seeking the advice of a good security supplier or independent security consultant will assist you when assessing your security requirements. Members of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) have been helping organisations and private residents to stay secure for over 45 years. To find an ISIA security supplier [click here](#).