

# COUNTRY WATCH



countrywatch@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

## Advice on choosing the right business or service

Police officers will often be asked if they know of a reputable business, tradesperson, or security product that they can recommend. Officers cannot promote or endorse specifically, but what we can do is direct you to a variety of approved organisations – where you will find vetted and approved companies and products. Below is a helpful guide for homeowners and business owners.

### CCTV and Alarms

Visit [www.ssaib.org.uk](http://www.ssaib.org.uk) and [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk) for information on the above. The Security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board, and the National Security Inspectorate are specialist Certification Bodies for alarms, fire systems, and CCTV amongst many others. On this website you can search for approved contractors who have gone through a rigorous vetting process to be endorsed by the Board.

If you wish to research your own companies in this area – make sure they are part of one of the two above organisations, or Buy With Confidence scheme (detailed further down).

### Locks and security

Visit the Master Locksmiths Association [www.locksmiths.co.uk](http://www.locksmiths.co.uk) and Sold Secure [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) for services and products relating to security.

### Designing 'out' crime

Visit Secured By Design - [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com) to see information on how crime can be prevented through the right designing and use of appropriate products. SBD was established in 1989 as part of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), and is the corporate title for a group of national police projects.



[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)

Deaf? Non-emergency text

**07781 480999**

For crime and community information

[www.hampshirealert.co.uk](http://www.hampshirealert.co.uk)



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## Security products

This company [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) is the premier testing and certification house for security products. The products are too numerous to mention, but all will have been tested to a demanding high standard, and some items offer a compensation to the owner should they fail to protect, so confident is the manufacturer (see **OnGuard** bicycle locks). They also have a bronze, silver, and Gold standard dependant on one's budget.

## Buy With Confidence scheme

Some councils run the above scheme [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk) where local tradespersons are vetted by Trading Standards Officers, and continue to be monitored to ensure residents receive a quality service to maintain integrity. Also – if any disputes arise Trading Standards can help mediate. This scheme is not run for profit and all funds received are ploughed back in to the scheme. Hampshire, Southampton and the Isle of Wight councils run the BWC, and Portsmouth has a similar scheme called Square Deal - <http://www.portsmouthsquaredeal.co.uk/>

## Your right to cancel

The law has recently changed and as of June 2014 the Consumer Contracts Regulations replaced the Distance Selling Regulations and the Doorstep Selling Regulations. As a consumer you have rights protecting you when it comes to goods and services – please visit these easy to read articles at the following web addresses for more information

<http://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/regulation/consumer-contracts-regulations>

<https://www.gov.uk/doorstep-selling-regulations>



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