**Operation Portum - Safe Spaces for Private Security**

**Introduction**

Operation Portum is an overarching scheme that businesses can sign up to and support with the objective to collectively increase safe spaces in retail premises. A large number of national retailers have already signed up, but the NBCC recognise that private security also operates within this space and play a significant role in keeping customers safe and secure.

In some cases it may be that a member of the public who needs assistance is more likely to approach a private security officer than a store colleague, therefore, we would like to encourage private security to support the scheme so your staff know the principles of how to deal with those incidents.

**The aim**

* Create a safer environment within our cities, town centres, retail parks and retail community so customers feel safe and confident
* Empower staff and security officers who work in these public space environments to support those who feel vulnerable

**The ask**

* Raise awareness amongst your security officers of Operation Portum and its principles
* Provide guidance on how your private security officers can use the principles to support and assist those who feel vulnerable

**How**

By adopting the Operation Portum principles and embedding them into your security officers training. This can be created and designed by yourself or taken from our website where we have created a short video which includes ‘do’s and do not’s’, and a framework setting out a systematic process to help in the planning and implementation of a safe spaces scheme.

It is worth taking into account that your clients (retailers) may already be supporting this scheme, so if your security officer is working within their store they should follow the process and meet the expectation adopted by that retailer.

It may also be the case that your security officer is working for a client or in a location that is not yet signed up to Operation Portum, by following the basic guidance on how to respond, you can be confident that you are offering support but not putting your clients reputation at risk.

For more information please see [Safe Spaces (nbcc.police.uk)](https://nbcc.police.uk/partnerships/safe-spaces)

**Sign up**

In order to sign up and support the scheme officially we will confirm with you that ‘The ask’ above has been completed. We can then add your logo to our website amongst other national brands as a supporter of Operation Portum.

To sign up please contact us at contact@nbcc.police.uk