



NBCC NEWS

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SIA Licensing Requirements for BIDs

The Private Security Industry Act 2001 is the legislation regulating the private security industry in the UK. Under this legislation an individual must hold a licence if they undertake certain roles and activities described by the Act.

The Security Industry Authority (SIA) is the regulator of the private security industry in the UK, its primary role is to protect the public by ensuring compliance with the Act.

One of its statutory duties is to licence individuals who are suitably qualified and are fit and proper. This allows those individuals to work lawfully in security roles described in the Act. There are several offences under the Act which the SIA investigates and prosecutes. The SIA also offers guidance on the requirements of the legislation.

Business Improvement Districts may, as part of the services they supply to their members, deploy staff in their BID areas who may require an SIA licence.

An individual is required to hold an SIA licence if the work they are doing is part of a “contract for services” and involves “licensable activity”. Business Improvement Districts need to ensure that where they deploy Street Rangers, Wardens, Ambassadors, or other similarly titled roles, that these are compliant with the licensing requirements of the Private Security Industry Act 2001.

The NBCC has produced a helpful guide covering:

- When is an SIA Licence required?
- Other Benefits
- Offences

The guide can be downloaded via this link: [SIA Licensing Requirements for BIDs](#)



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ShopKind Week 2025

W/C 30th June

The #ShopKind campaign is a retail sector campaign to address abuse and violence against shopworkers by:

- Encouraging positive behaviour in stores
- Acknowledging the essential role of shopworkers
- Raising awareness about scale and impact of abuse and violence towards shopworkers

ShopKind Week will take place w/c 30th June when the Association of Convenience Stores will be promoting the ShopKind campaign in the national media to raise awareness of violence and abuse against shopworkers.

Retailers are being asked to support the campaign by displaying ShopKind materials in retail outlets all of which can be downloaded for free from the NBCC website: [ShopKind Materials](#)

Police, retailers and partners are also being asked to support the campaign on social media channels using the social media assets available to download.

As well as printed material, there are also a suite of videos which can be downloaded and displayed in stores on screens or used on social media channels.

Two new videos in the NBCC Crime Prevention Series

The NBCC has produced two new crime prevention videos aimed at helping pharmacies and food outlets protect themselves from crime.

Community pharmacy teams are sadly no strangers to witnessing crimes, from petty shoplifting and vandalism to violent crimes such as burglaries or attacks on staff. This video gives top tips on how to keep premises and staff safe: [Pharmacy Safety Video](#)



There has been a spate of cooking oil thefts across the UK as its value increases. From the East Midlands to East Anglia and everywhere in between, thieves are taking every opportunity to drain takeaways and restaurants of the cooking oil they have either used, or are keeping in storage for future use. Find out here how to make cooking oil theft a much harder target: [Cooking Oil Theft Video](#)

Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee: Renewing the Fight Against Retail Crime

The Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee (NPG) is a commitment under the Government's Safer Streets Mission and sets out a range of promises to communities across the country.

Read more here - [Safer Streets - GOV.UK](#)

Under the NPG every resident will have access to a visible, responsive, and accountable police presence; this guarantee seeks to rebuild trust by putting neighbourhoods, and their specific concerns, at the heart of local police priorities.

The NPG objectives are set out across five pillars with pillar five specifically targeting safer town centres. This recognises that retail crime is one of the most urgent and growing concerns for our communities; retail crime is no longer confined to occasional shop theft, it encompasses organised retail theft, repeat offending, criminal damage, and violence and abuse against retail staff. According to the most recent police data there were 516,971 shop thefts in 2024, the highest ever recorded by police.

For small businesses, repeated theft can mean the difference between surviving or closing down. Retail crime undermines livelihoods, affects mental health, drives up prices, and creates a climate of fear on our high streets, the NPG addresses this by reinforcing the importance of visible, consistent, local policing. Under the guarantee, every community will have named officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who know the area, understand its issues, and work closely with local people, including retailers. This increased presence is not just symbolic; it is a vital deterrent to would-be offenders and a practical resource for rapid intervention.

Tackling retail crime requires more than patrols, it demands partnership. The guarantee supports greater collaboration between police forces and retailers, both large and small. Through local business forums, Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, and Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), officers can work alongside store managers and security teams to share intelligence, identify persistent offenders, and coordinate crime prevention strategies. Some forces are trialling specialist retail crime units, and others are using technology such as live-linked CCTV and radio networks to respond faster to incidents.

By July, all forces will be expected to have increased patrols in town centres and other hotspots based on local demand and intelligence, to tackle key local issues such as anti-social behaviour, shop theft and vandalism and provide enhanced visibility and presence in our high streets and town centres.

The expectation of forces to meet the NPG was recently set out in a letter to Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables by the Home Secretary.

[HS Letter to CCs and PCCs - 10th April 2025.pdf](#)

The NPG is supported by a performance management framework with a focus on reducing crime and increasing positive outcomes e.g. charges and cautions on retail crime.

[Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee performance framework - GOV.UK](#)

In short, the NPG offers a chance to reset the relationship between police and public. Through a focused, partnership-driven approach to retail crime, it aims to make our communities stronger, our streets safer, and our shops more secure.

ACS crime survey reports alarming incidents of violence

Essex Police has launched two new initiatives to speed up the process of putting suspects for shop thefts before a court.

The force said the schemes aim to improve conviction rates while “freeing-up officers’ time and allowing them to get back out on the streets of neighbourhoods, where they belong”.

In the year to March 31, Essex Police officers made 1,374 arrests for shop theft and assaults on retail staff in Essex – securing 2,442 charges – and solved 530 more offences than in the previous 12 months.

Sergeant Christian Denning, of the Business Crime Team explains: “We have a force Rapid Video Response team of police officers who have expanded their remit to include incidents of shop theft where a suspect has been arrested.

“The arresting officer will obtain the details of a member of staff who knows what happened, can provide a witness statement and, hopefully, provide us with good quality CCTV footage of the incident and who has a device which can receive a secure video call from one of our RVR officers.



“This allows victims to provide the RVR officer with an immediate account of what happened and secure vital evidence before it is forgotten, lost or recorded over, while the arresting officer can take the detainee straight to custody.”

Named shop theft suspects can now be summonsed directly to magistrates’ court in certain circumstances without the need for arrest or interview.

Christian explains: “To be able to do this, officers will need good quality CCTV footage of the offence taking place with a clear image of the offender or a suitable witness statement.

“But if it is likely the suspect will contest their case, has no home address, is a persistent offender or there are aggravating factors, such as an assault, then this process isn’t suitable for them.

“Through these two schemes, we aim to get suspects for shop theft before the courts more quickly, in some cases removing the need for them to be arrested before they are charged.

“If we are provided with good quality CCTV and witness statements, plus information about the items stolen and their value, then offenders are often left with no option other than to plead guilty at the first opportunity.

“The fact that we’ve solved 530 more shop theft offences in the past 12 months than we did in the previous year is testament to this.”

The Business Crime Team’s Open For Business, Closed For Crime campaign encourages retailers to report shop theft, assaults on staff and anti-social behaviour to us and provide us with CCTV footage and witness statements.

This information enables our business crime officers, neighbourhood policing teams and town centre teams to target their operational activity accordingly.