



ALERT Business Crime Partnership Benefits

What is a BCRP?

The Norwich BCRP or Business Crime reduction partnership is called ALERT and is a professional version of what were once called shop watches, or radio schemes and encompasses pub watch too. It is part of the Norwich BID.

ALERT works in partnership with Police and the local authority acting as a civil governed by the BID board elected from its own member (businesses) with the aim of reducing crime and disorder having a negative impact on the member businesses. It shares information with member and has an Information Sharing Agreement with Norfolk Police.

What are the benefits of the ALERT BCRP scheme?

- The BCRP system includes radio and the DISC data sharing portal, which has a direct contact with the city-wide Police.
- The secure DISC website provides accurate intelligence and up-to-date images of all offenders reported by members or the Police.
- A mobile App for Apple and Android allows you to access information on your Smartphone including: offender galleries, news, alerts, documents, upcoming events, ID-sought images.
- Separate DISC systems are in place for the day-time (retail) and night-time economies.
- Increased profitability by reducing crime, the fear of crime, stock losses and anti-social behaviour.
- Bi-monthly business crime ALERT Intelligence Briefings.
- Weekly e-newsletter for day & night schemes.
- Free crime reduction training.
- Data sharing agreement between ALERT members and Norfolk Police.

Why share information?

Business routinely gather information about losses and loss prevention incidents, they will often detain offenders, record their details (including taking a picture if CCTV hasn't recorded one) for a civil prosecution or claim and then serve the offender with a banning order.

An offender may be known to an entire high street yet only have been reported to the Police once. This means that the Police treat them as a low risk offender if they are detained

and consequently any treatment will be comparatively mild. Sharing of this information, data and images presents a potential legal minefield to the retailer regarding things like the Data Protection Act.

ALERT serves to gather and hold this information for businesses. By collating it in one place, we can establish trends and patterns as well as compiling lists of offenders before passing back relevant information in a data protection compliant manner to all relevant members therefore allowing the member businesses to be more aware. Data is shared through the DISC website and through regular briefings and meetings. Records and documents are retained for a period before being then destroyed.

All this is overseen by a dedicated coordinator with training in relevant matters and able to advise businesses on best practice and to ensure compliance with data protection laws and to act as an advocate for the members in meetings with police and other bodies as well as managing the generated intelligence.

The radio serves to assist in real time sharing of information on a day to day operational manner; it is the intelligence behind it all that is the backbone to an accredited BCRP.

Who funds the scheme?

ALERT is funded by the BID businesses through the levy and run as a not for profit business. An extra charge is made to businesses that have a radio.

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