MANAGING CRIME RISK

PROTECTION FOR YOUR PROJECT

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HOW TO MANAGE YOUR CRIME RISK

Don’t let crime threaten the delivery of your project. By following these three key steps you can proactively minimise threats in order to protect your project:

1 - Really understand the risks:
   • Carry out a full desktop survey using good multi-industry crime data
   • This will help you to narrow down and rank your risk areas (high, medium or low)
   • Gather information on current local crime activities, such as drug abuse, trespass, and cable theft
   • Identify the local second hand market, including scrap metal dealers

2 - Identify key vulnerabilities:
   • Get boots on the ground in high risk areas in order to gather detailed crime-prevention intelligence on-site - professional expertise is very likely to be required. British Transport Police may also be able to help with this
   • Identify vulnerable access points, such as low wooden access gates, poor fencing or no fencing
   • Consider those assets most at risk and apply the appropriate mitigation measures
   • Search for signs of criminal activity, for example where cable has been stripped, and evidence of drug and alcohol abuse
   • Look for damaged vegetation - it may indicate criminal access and egress routes

3 - Lay the foundation:
   • Prioritise areas identified as high risk
   • Don’t try to tackle this alone. Partner with local police, British Transport Police and external professionals with crime prevention experience
   • Have frequent meaningful two-way communications with all parties involved to share insight, ideas and results
   • Publicise what you are doing through the media and signage, and widely report arrests and convictions. It will help prevent repeat incidents and make criminals perceive the railway as a hostile environment

PROTECT THE PROJECT

Once you have carried out the above three steps you will be in a really strong position to add further value to your project and protect the programme.

Use the intelligence you have gathered to make decisive decisions based on facts - it will save you significant time and money.

Given your new level of understanding consider whether current scoped mitigation measures are appropriate and cost effective.

DYNAMIC ASSESSMENT

Crime is constantly evolving. To stay one step ahead you need to regularly review your mitigation measures and determine if they are working efficiently to protect the project:
   • Are they the right measures?
   • Are they being deployed in the right place?
   • Are they being used at the right time?

Remember, managing risk should be self-funding.

DON’T RISK YOUR PROGRAMME

If you truly understand the risk to your project and have the knowledge to make informed decisions, then you have everything you need to mitigate the threats you face. Intelligent project delivery should be self-funding by reducing the impact of crime on your project, and provide a legacy for operational railway.

If you would like further advice or to discuss your options and next steps, please contact us to book a free consultation call with Neil Carter, our Head of Rail Services.

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