



**Daniel Washington C2010**  
Designing Out Crime Officer

**Thames Valley Police**  
Headquarters South  
Oxford Road  
Kidlington  
OX5 2NX

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**Reference: PL/24/0829**

**Location: Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AN**

Dear Ms Rejwerska,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response to the above application. I have reviewed the submitted documents and crime statistics for the area, and had discussions with the applicant's security advisors (Cornerstone). From my discussions with Cornerstone, I understand that a Security Needs Assessment is being undertaken as part of BREEAM and this is welcomed.

I provide the following comments to ensure forthcoming applications meet the requirements of;

- The National Planning Policy Framework 2023 paragraph 96(b); which states that Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion...
- The National Planning Policy Framework 2023, paragraph 135(f) which states that "Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible... and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience".

From my review of the available documentation, I have the following comments to make which I trust will be considered as part of any necessary revisions to the scheme or included in any post planning specifications or strategies:

- The scheme includes secure access details and I understand from Cornerstone that primary access for patients will be through the main hospital building (via a covered walkway) rather than using the separate entrance proposed directly from the adjacent car park. As noted in the Secured by Design Hospital Guidance (2005), the number of public entrances into a hospital should be reduced to the minimum practicable (paragraph 26.1) to maintain and control safe and secure access. An access strategy will therefore be important to ensure access into the building by patients/visitors is appropriately managed.
- Within the security information provided I could not find any mention of window security. Whilst it is appreciated that this is a level of detail that is not necessarily required at planning application stage, it will be important that the windows have

appropriate security specifications and include window restrictors. Guidance can be found within the Secured by Design Hospital Guidance (2005).

- It is noted that perimeter security immediately around the building is proposed in the form of a mixture of bollards and an Armco barrier. It is assumed that these are proposed as hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM). To function effectively however, HVM must be provided in all locations which would be vulnerable to vehicles and it is noted that the corners of the proposed building, particularly the south east corner, are not afforded appropriate HVM protection.
- It is noted that the external stair access to the plant room is proposed to be fenced and gated. This gate should be lockable and included in the access control measures.
- I note the submission of a lighting assessment. However, I have been unable to locate a plan which provides detail of the external lighting proposed and would suggest that this is secured through an appropriately worded condition, for example as follows:

*Prior to commencement of development above slab level, details of a proposed external lighting scheme shall be submitted to the local planning authority. The scheme shall set out the steps that will be taken to ensure that external lighting, including zonal/security lighting promotes a secure environment and does not cause a nuisance to local residents.*

In relation to the above and with regards to specifying, we would recommend the applicant considers and consults the SPD Hospital Guidance 2005.

The above comments are made on behalf of Thames Valley Police and relate to designing out crime only. I hope that you find these comments of assistance. If you have any queries relating to crime prevention design, please do not hesitate to contact myself.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Washington | Designing Out Crime Officer