

The Secured by Design Approach

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Introduction

The Secured by Design (SBD) is a UK based initiative, managed by Association of Chief Police Officers Secured by Design (ACPO SBD), which aims to encourage the building industry to design out crime.

SBD comprises two main functions: i) Licensing Scheme and ii) the Developers' Award. The Licensing Scheme includes a number of member companies whose products have passed relevant security tests and therefore entitled to promote their product as a 'Police Preferred Specification' and use the Secured by Design logo.

The Developers' Award is a certificate given to building developments which are built to the SBD standard. That is, following consultation with the police Architectural Liaison Officer (ALO) or Crime Prevention Design Advisor (CPDA) the development is deemed to conform to the appropriate ACPO guidelines.

SBD guides exist for a variety of buildings and spaces including new homes, refurbishments, sheltered accommodation, multi-storey dwellings, railway stations, hospitals, schools and licensed premises.

The principles of SBD draw largely upon the opportunity theories of crime, situational crime prevention and crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles.

Principles of Secured by Design:

The principles of SBD fall largely into the following categories:

- **Physical Security:** SBD sets standards of physical security for each property and its boundaries.
- **Surveillance:** SBD estates are designed to achieve maximum natural surveillance without compromising the need for privacy.
- **Access/Egress:** SBD estates are designed to include a minimum number of access/egress points in an attempt to avoid unnecessary entry onto the estate by non-residents and potential offenders.
- **Territoriality:** In an attempt to achieve maximum informal social control, SBD draws upon Newman's principles of 'defensible space' – space must have clearly defined ownership, purpose and role.
- **Management and Maintenance:** SBD estates should have a programmed management system in place to maintain the area. This includes the removal of litter and graffiti.

SBD is managed and promoted primarily by the police. Each police force has a number of ALOs or CPDAs who work in consultation with planners, architects, developers, housing associations to ensure that as many developments as possible are designed and built (or refurbished) to the SBD standard. It is the responsibility of ALOs to assess planning applications from a security perspective and to work with developers to attempt to address any design weaknesses which emerge.

The following images show features of SBD approved developments.



Questions:

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of informing residents their home has been built to SBD standards?

2. What impact might the use of licensed products potentially have on the design creativity of the development?

3. In terms of management and maintenance, who should be held responsible for ensuring the development is well managed?

4. There are approximately 200 ALOs/CPDAs across England and Wales. What issues does this raise regarding the consistency of the advice provided?

5. SBD is a life-long award and is not re-assessed at regular intervals. What are the implications of this situation?