

Security for businesses over the Christmas period

In the lead up to Christmas and the New Year cash takings for many businesses will be higher than usual, in particular bars and other places of entertainment. Criminals are of course wise to this, and there have been cases in the Algarve, where bars in particular have been watched to decide which is likely to have high takings.

A problem for many businesses is how to handle cash over this period, in particular whether to transport large sums of cash to the bank or keep it on the premises. The following tips drawn up in consultation with the police should be followed;

- Firstly do not place staff at risk.
- When transporting cash, if the amounts are high, whatever the distance, the cash should be carried by a group of two or three staff members distributed between them.
- It is better to make use of a vehicle parked as close as possible to the starting and destination points.
- Knowledge of cash handling arrangements should only be known to those who need to know.
- Cash transportation times should be varied and routes varied as well.
- It is better to deposit smaller amounts of cash at regular intervals, rather than large sums in one go.
- Check if you are being followed.
- Business owners need to balance the need of taking money home after closing rather than keeping the money in a safe on the premise. The third alternative is to open a bank cash deposit box so you can use this anytime to deposit cash.
- If amounts are very high employ a security company to transport the cash safely, or alternatively contact police for assistance.

If you are undecided whether or not to transport cash, or do not have the resources or means to do it safely, it is better to keep it on the premises, PROVIDED that you have a very secure and well fitted safe.