



Advice on activism against member's businesses.

Activism against a members business tends to be in 4 forms. In the last 12 months AIMS members have experienced all 4 though the frequency with which some are occurring is increasing.

The 4 forms are as follows.

1. Direct protest outside or near to your site
2. Covert filming
3. Social Media Claims
4. Cyber-attack.

Direct protest outside or near to your site

These may be a one-off event or may run on several days, sometimes consecutively. You may have early warning that a protest is to take place through using social media to follow local groups.

The reasoning as to why these protests vary. They are simply because a group decides to protest or because your business may have been in the news, either in a positive or negative manner.

It is essential that none of your staff engage with the protestors. Your staff have the legal right to go about their lawful business without being hindered by others.

If the protestors take pictures of staff, their vehicles or record vehicle registration numbers, this is harassment and must be reported to the police immediately.

If you are forewarned that there is to be a protest you should immediately get a director of the business to contact the Chief Constable and ask that they ensure that the protest is properly policed.

If the police don't respond within a short period of time. We suggest 4 hours, then you should make your MP aware and ask that they raise the issue.

Once the protest starts there is little point in remonstrating with them. However, if you do wish to engage in conversation with them it is essential that you protect yourself from malicious accusations of assault. This is best done by the staff member or members wearing body worn cameras. Details of suppliers are at the end of this document.

Ensure that you try to record as much of the protest on CCTV and if your vehicles are moving to and from your site during the protest ensure that they have their dash cameras on.

You need to ensure that you have as much information about the protest on record should you be challenged at some point in the future.

If they are distributing any sort of leaflet, please try to get a copy as it may be libellous and can be used to support getting an injunction against future protests.

Whatever happens don't let them set foot on your private property otherwise it establishes an agreement.



If the police have been present during the protest as a result of your contacting the Chief Constable, please email the Chief Constable thanking them for their support.

Covert filming

Too often the first you know about covert filming taking place is when a story either appears on-line or in the local press. See below.

If this does happen then please contact AIMS immediately and we will advise you how best to proceed.

We have seen that this sort of action may then result in site protests (see above)

The best way to stop covert filming is to try to ensure that it doesn't happen in the first place.

Those involved in this sort of activity generally want footage from the lairage, the run and the kill area.

We suggest that you buy a camera and GPS tracking device. Details of suppliers at the end of this document.

You should then sweep your site at the start and at the end of production every day and also sweep all delivery vehicles entering the site. Often animal rights activists will try to put some sort of tracking device onto a vehicle when it is parked up at motorway services en-route to your site.

If you find a covert camera. Do not remove it. Try to cover the lens in order that any recording is blocked out. Advise your site security and keep watch on the camera. Someone will come to try to collect it. As soon as you become aware of them entering the site to collect contact the Police. Do not try to intervene. Try to ensure that you get as much of their movements around the site on CCTV as possible.

If you do find a covert camera you may want to put a movement sensitive camera or infra-red alarm close by in order to capture the person collecting and to alert you of them being on site.

Make it part of your routine that you clean the lenses on everyone of your CCTV cameras.

Check your CCTV cameras everyday on the screen to see if the angle of what they are showing has been altered in any way. If it has, then this is often a sign that someone has interfered with it to put in their own camera.

Social Media Claims

As we all know there's a lot of rubbish on social media.

We have a member who suffered covert filming which showed that they had done nothing wrong become the subject of a running commentary trying to suggest that they were breaking the law.

The type of inflammatory language used was such that it subsequently spawned an on-line petition to try to get the member's business closed.



Firstly, do not engage in any social media comment with these activists in relation to their posts. Screen shot what they are saying and save it. It may well be that what they are saying can be classed as incitement to malicious communication which is a criminal offence. As is malicious communication.

We also recommend that you set up a false social media profile and then follow the groups which have an interest in your business on twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Cyber-attack.

This is far more difficult to deal with as you will only know that you have been a victim once you have been attacked.

However, there are some useful tips to try to stop an attack and how to report an attack on the National Cyber Security Centre website: [Click Here](#)

To report an incident: [Click Here](#)

For cyber security information for SMEs: [Click Here](#)

For cyber security information for large organisations: [Click Here](#)

Also, in terms of IT threats we recommend that members businesses have a UTM (unified threat management box) installed to protect against threats from the internet.

There is also some training that is reasonable and simple to help awareness: [Click Here](#)

Other suggestions

Malicious phone calls and emails: Keep a log of all malicious phone calls and if possible, the caller's number. If you can record the call, so much the better. If they leave a phone message retain it for the Police

Malicious emails; keep all of these. It is a very serious criminal matter if a threat is made to harm or to kill and this must be reported to police immediately.

Remember, if you are recruiting staff, it may well be that the animal rights groups try to place one of their supporters at your site. For this reason, check applicant's social media profiles and follow up references.

Talk with your local police station and police headquarters. Let them know about your site and business and try to get a name and details so as you have a point of contact.

Many police constabularies are in the Rural Crime Network and will have a rural crime lead and officers. You may wish to invite them into your site.

Ensure that your staff are all trained in site security.

AIMS continues to advise members (abattoirs and cutting plants) may wish to have a no obligation chat with Paul McDonald at AIMS Supplier Member **Camor Risk and Security Solutions** [Click Here](#)

You can contact Paul to discuss your site security and security training for your staff via email: pmcdonald@camor.co.uk



Paul and his team will also be able to advise on preventing this sort of filming from taking place.

We are advised that the cost of the training is very reasonable to make it as accessible to as many people as possible.

Equipment Suppliers

Both of these are available from Amazon as well as other security retailers.

Body Worn Cameras: [Click Here](#)

Mirrors on Sticks: [Click Here](#)

Purchase a Hidden Camera Detector, GPS Tracker, RF Signal & Bug

Digital Camera world have recently published an article: **Best hidden camera detector in 2022: hunt out bugs, trackers and spy cams** [Click Here](#)

Amazon currently has the: **JMDHKK Anti Spy RF Detector Bug Detector, Camera Finder Scanner, GPS Tracker Detector, Find and Locate Eavesdropping Device Auto Scan 4-in-1 Detector** available at £59.49 [Click Here](#)

A business called Antiete also have them at £59.99: [Click Here](#)