



October 2024

Park Island Way Entrance Guard

Park Island Guarding introduced a guarding service at the Park Island Way entrance about 20 years ago. Over the years, as security technology has developed, additional aids have been added to make the guard more effective, as crime and lawlessness have increased significantly all around us.

The additions made over the years include:

A Guard Report-in System. The guard is automatically prompted at regular intervals day and night to report to the Control Room. To do this, he must cross the road and press a report-in button. We can adjust the frequency of the report-ins to suit the circumstances - typically set at every 15 or 20 minutes, 24 hours a day. If the guard does not press the report-in button when prompted, an alert is raised in the Ithuba Control Room for reaction.

An Entrance Movement Detector. After hours, we set a beam across Park Island Way, between the traffic lights and Eastlake Drive. The guard and the Ithuba Control Room are alerted if the beam is broken. Anyone entering Park Island Way by foot or by vehicle when the beam is set will be detected and reacted to.

Management reporting. Each morning, we receive an email summary of the previous day's reporting, which we immediately scrutinise. If there are any concerns, we liaise with the operations team at Ithuba to get answers. All the security data is open and available to us.

Entrance Cameras. Overview and LPR cameras monitor the section of Park Island Way from Eastlake Drive to Prince George Drive.

- After hours, any vehicular or pedestrian movement triggers an alert from the overview camera and a response in the Deep Blue Control Room. In addition, similar cameras in De Lille and T'Wagen ensure that any vehicular or pedestrian movement approaching the guard hut will be detected.
- 24x7, the LPR camera will scan and retain a record of every vehicle's licence plates entering or leaving Park Island and alert the Control Room if the vehicle has been logged as suspected of having been involved in a criminal act.

Armed Response Vehicle. When not responding or patrolling, the Ithuba ARV parks alongside the guard hut, providing an additional visual deterrent.

Thus the guard is one component of a network of detection and deterrent devices monitoring the entrance to Park Island.

Sleeping Guard - what to do?

Despite the systems described above, a guard may fall asleep while on duty, even if only for a few minutes. If you find the guard asleep you should

- 1) Wake him. He will thank you - he does not want to be asleep. Sleeping on duty can lead to immediate dismissal, so you are doing the right thing. Additionally, he will be back on duty to secure our safety.
- 2) Call the Ithuba Control room to report the sleeping guard. The phone number is on the Noticeboard opposite the Guard Hut. This way, Ithuba can take appropriate action - dismissal if he is a serial offender, a warning if dismissal is not warranted.
- 3) Alternatively, drop an email to PICID detailing the date & time. We will then raise the issue with Ithuba.

Recent Event

Recently, a photo of a guard allegedly sleeping was posted on the General WhatsApp Group at around 08h00, with the caption that the image had just been taken. Naturally, this caused an uproar of indignation, opinions and 'solutions'.

We immediately contacted Ithuba and confirmed that the photographer had not approached the guard hut from Prince George Drive - the beam had not been broken. We also confirmed that the guard had not missed a report-in during his shift. This led us to the cameras, and very quickly we had an image of the photographer, a Park Island resident, taking a picture on his mobile phone at 01h38.21. We had already established that the guard had pressed the report-in button at 01h40.37, some 2 minutes later.

We also followed the photographer's late-night perambulations. As the photographer is a resident, no response is required when the cameras trigger an alert.

So what was the fuss about? All because one guard closed his eyes and a strolling resident took a photo to embarrass the guard, the service provider and the PICID volunteers. The photographer then got someone else to do the posting. So now the guard, a breadwinner, will go through a disciplinary process and very possibly get fired as this is what happens in reality.

Conclusion

Providing security in Park Island is not a game. There are no points on offer for sneaking up on a guard and taking a photo or for passing the photo on for posting on the General WhatsApp group. There are no prizes for pithy comments like 'the role of the guard is to guard the guard house'.

Providing security in Park Island is a serious matter. The PICID volunteers responsible for security are experienced professionals and our Security Providers have been selected for their expertise. Our procedures and technology are under constant review and are continually being fine-tuned, whilst all the while being acutely aware of the costs that have to be borne by the residents.

We welcome suggestions and there is a standing invitation for any resident to attend our board meetings to raise issues and make suggestions. We are all responsible for security In Park Island, and we expect that residents will work together with the PICID volunteers to deliver the security we desire.

Kind regards

Park Island CID