

# News Release

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## **CCTV success at Dorset County Hospital**

Dorset County Hospital has a message for would-be thieves – steal from us and you will be caught!

The hospital's CCTV system was upgraded last year and has proved invaluable in helping to keep its wards and departments secure. A direct radio link between the accident and emergency department and local police has also been very successful.

The hospital works closely with Dorset Police the local CCTV control centre operators. This partnership recently led to the arrest of a man identified on hospital CCTV as the person wanted in relation to a theft from a purse on one of the wards.

The hospital's security specialist Scot Sherrard said: "This would-be thief targeted the hospital and much to his dismay found that if you steal, attempt to steal or offer violence or abuse at this hospital, the likelihood of you being caught and prosecuted has vastly increased.

"This can be credited to a close working partnership with the police and the CCTV operators. In addition, there are many other initiatives being worked on by the partnership. The response times from Dorset Police to incidents at the hospital are second to none, and the addition of the enhanced CCTV and direct link radio network is now paying dividends.

"The message to those either offering violence or who think they can steal from the hospital is 'beware' - we are watching you and when we do catch you we will pursue a prosecution."

Police Constable Becky Ford, of Dorchester Police, said: "Thanks to the hospital CCTV, the offender appeared before Weymouth Magistrates and received a suspended prison sentence and was put on a drug rehabilitation programme.

"CCTV is a great tool in bringing offenders to justice and can also go a long way to deter would-be opportunist criminals."

**ENDS**

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