

# NEWSFLASH: SITE SECURITY

At the start of the summer holidays we have tragically heard the sad news that Officers searching for missing 7-year-old Conley Thompson have, at 08:30 today (Monday, 27 July), found the body of a child on a construction site on Bank End Road in the Worsbrough area of Barnsley. The place and cause of death have yet to be determined by post mortem.

This newsflash is intended to highlight the importance of site security, and bring it to the forefront of the minds of those who are responsible for premises and sites. For sites under construction this duty falls to the Principal Contractor, whose representative on site is the Site Manager, however all premises should be adequately secured by those responsible.

Schools around the country have now closed for summer so children have many more available hours to play, and unfortunately this is not always with responsible adult supervision. Some children are drawn to construction sites as exciting places to play; the Principal Contractor is legally responsible for site security and must do everything they can to keep them out of the site and away from danger. The following should be in place as a minimum:

- Secure sites adequately both during the working day and out of hours, using hoarding or heras fencing at least 2m in height and securely anchored.
- Remove access ladders from excavations and scaffolds.
- Barrier off or cover over excavations and pits.
- Isolate and immobile vehicles and plant, and if possible lock them in the compound.
- Store building materials (pipes, manhole rings, cement bags, etc) so that they cannot topple or roll over. Keep them within the boundary fencing.
- Lock away hazardous substances.
- Check site security at the end of every day, and prior to commencing work. Report any evidence of break ins, or attempted break ins, and review site security measures.

Where maintaining security is an issue, security personnel or CCTV should be considered. These options will not be needed for every site but should be considered against the risks of unauthorised entry.

A particular concern is where completed sales houses and occupied new builds are surrounded by units still under construction. Unless effective segregation of construction activities can be achieved, occupiers of completed houses and potential house purchasers are effectively 'visitors' on a construction site.