

Lockdown

You may need to 'lockdown' your buildings – how can NHS Property Services assist?

What is Lockdown?

For the NHS, 'Lockdown' refers to a process which is used to control the access/egress and movement of people. It is used in response to an identified threat or risk which could impact on the safety and security of people, employees, patients and visitors on your site and your capability to continue to deliver services.

What do you need to do to enable lockdown of the premises or site you occupy?

There may be a number of circumstances when you need to lockdown an area under your control, these may include:

- A missing patient
- An incident of extreme violence and aggression
- A request by Police based on received intelligence

The ability to lockdown sites, properties or buildings fits in with the statutory responsibilities of NHS Trusts as category 1 responders as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

You, as the occupier, are responsible for the development and production of your own lockdown procedures and having the means to implement them that take account of the resources necessary to ensure staff, visitor, client and asset safety, as well as the continuation of your service delivery.

How can NHS Property Services assist?

Where your lockdown procedure requires building systems information, including the integration of physical security personnel where present, NHS Property Services (NHSPS) as landlord will provide all relevant information to you. If the building requires additional facilities to achieve lockdown you must discuss this with the Principal Property Manager or Facilities Manager.

If the building is a large, complex and multi-tenanted, NHSPS accepts that co-ordination of a site lockdown procedure can be difficult and all relevant parties need to co-operate and communicate. Subject to local resources, NHSPS can help with the co-ordination of tenant meetings to allow you to discuss and draw up integrated site plans.

NHSPS is not responsible for the initiation of any lockdown procedures as this must be a decision taken by you, or the appointed person on site, assessing and responding to the risk, threat or hazard as it presents. This may be in partnership with other organisations both NHS and external e.g. due to Police intelligence.