



The Safer Detention Unit

PROTECTING STAFF AND BUSINESSES FROM RISKS AROUND RETAIL CRIME

Suitable for:

The short-term detention by private security and police of those engaged in crime in the retail environment. Protecting staff and businesses from risk.

- **Low Cost**
- **Innovative**
- **Scalable**
- **Cost Effective Safety Solutions**



The Athelney Group

Low Cost Safe and Secure Holding Room Solutions

The BRC's 2016 survey highlights concerns among retailers that existing deterrence is not effective enough - retail crime has risen to 3.6 million incidents, a direct cost of up to £660m and customer theft is still the most common crime at 83% at £468m.

In addition, according to the BRC report violence and abuse against staff is up by 40% and retailers list violence against staff as the crime they are most concerned about.

Shop theft is the biggest operational challenge for retailers as it is often difficult to prevent and detect. However, once a suspect is detained a new range of challenges need to be managed.

All shop staff and security have the right to detain those suspected of a crime and to continue to detain them to prevent them from causing physical injury to himself or any other person; suffering physical injury; causing loss of or damage to property; or making off before a constable can assume responsibility for him.

Businesses have a duty of care to staff and suspects under health and safety legislation and they must ensure that all practical steps are taken to make the process is safe for all concerned.

The solution to safe detention is The Athelney Group Safer Detention Unit (SDU)

The Athelney Group are the designers and manufacturers of the Safer Detention Unit or SDU.

The SDU has been designed for the safe holding of individuals for short periods following detention for a range of matters such as minor crime, abusive or disorderly behaviour and anti-social behaviour.

The SDU is safe and secure holding unit that meets the design standards for the detention of persons. It is ligature free, with a cushioned bench, air circulation, individual CCTV monitoring systems, the door is fitted with glass panels for ease of monitoring and most importantly **the SDU is a modular design and comes flat packed for ease of installation on any site.**

The SDU has been designed for use by private security staff as well as the police.

The SDU can be installed easily in a morning at any site. It is highly cost effective. It allows suspects to be held safely protecting staff while disposal options are considered.

Police can process on site so it reduces the need taking suspects long distances to police custody facilities.

The patented flat pack design ensures that purchase and installation costs are more cost effective against standard construction methods.

All loss prevention and security staff have the power to detain a person for crime and other circumstances including under Article 5(2) of the Human Rights Act.

Safer Detention Unit Specifications

Patent Protected: PX210461GB

**Our products are built to the following standards:
BS EN 1090-1:2009 + A1:2011 & full CE certification
and ISO 9001.**



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Private security can detain and use force in the following circumstances:

- Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967. Any person may use reasonable force to prevent a crime, when effecting an arrest or assisting in an arrest. Private security can arrest people for breach of the peace or for committing indictable offences.
- Arresting suspects who commit crime using Section 24A of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984. (Citizen's Arrest). Offences covered include threatening, behaviour, affray (fighting), assaults, theft, deception, forged or counterfeit tickets, ticket touts.
- The power of arrest is designed for private citizens and those in the security sector to be able to detain a person(s) until they are handed over to the police. Such detention can include holding them either physically (which presents risks) or safely in a holding room, such as the SDU.
- Common law 'Breach of the Peace'. Any person may use reasonable force to prevent a breach of the peace. This includes private security dealing with disturbances at festivals and events grounds.
- Common Law 'self-defence'. Any person may use reasonable force to protect themselves, to protect others and to protect property. They may also use reasonable force to gain access to an area where someone is under attack.
- Article 5 of the Human Rights Act (the right to freedom and liberty) is conditional. It allows for the lawful arrest or detention of a person effected for the purpose of bringing him before the competent legal authority on reasonable suspicion of having committed an offence or when it is reasonably considered necessary to prevent his committing an offence or fleeing after having done so.
- Businesses could also include detention for crime as a condition of entry to their premises in a similar way that football grounds make searching a condition of entry. We can provide further information on request.

What is detention?

As soon as you have prevented a suspect leaving or moving freely, they are detained. However, most security and manager's offices present high risk environments. Desks filled with computers, cups, scissors, etc. There is a safer and more secure space....

The SDU removes the risks of injury and conflict.



Responsibility of Retail Management

Retail management have a responsibility to their staff and to those who they accept onto their land or premises. This applies to everyone including those detained for offences, trespass and disorder. The primary legislation that covers this area of responsibility is the **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974**.

The SDU helps you manage the risks that exist when your staff detain suspects.

Protect your staff and your business with the SDU.

The use of the SDU would result in the following benefits:

- Subjects are detained in a safe and secure holding unit while circumstances are investigated and action plans decided;
- The decision-making process can be managed in a calm and methodical manner;
- With the subject in the SDU the risk of conflict and an escalation in the use of force is removed;
- The suspect is recorded on the internal CCTV at all times. Both images and audio are recorded to evidence their behaviour. Warnings that this is taking place often results in an immediate de-escalation of aggressive behaviour;
- Security staff released back on core duties quicker, at times almost immediately;
- Faster and safer processing of subjects with decisions made in safety on site;
- With a more effective and efficient management of subjects, staff become more efficient and thus staff numbers could be reduced making fiscal savings;
- If police were to process subjects on site there would be an improved response. This would present a performance increase of 79%, meaning officers back on the streets in 1 hour against 6 to 8 hours of the subject was taken to a police custody suite;
- The SDU is a cost-effective detention facility that provides a significant additional benefit to retailers in that it will act as a deterrent to future crime once thieves know that a retailer has installed this facility;
- The availability of the SDU will enable retailers to adopt a firmer policy on crime and disorder in their premises that affect customer experience and safety of staff.

Full training can be given to staff on the law and procedures for using the SDU.

The Athelney Group Safer Detention Unit is suitable to meet the needs of both private security and police dealing with retail crime. Our solution is a low-cost option that enables individual retailers or shopping centres to meet their needs in improving the security at their businesses at the same time as deploying an effective deterrent to crime in the retail environment.

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For further information contact the Athelney Group on 0800 0025101 or at info@athelneygroup.com

You can also view our website at www.athelneygroup.com



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Specialising in delivery of risk management and security solutions for the public and private sector.

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