



Case study: Pickersgill-Kaye secures flagship police headquarters

New standards in police custodial facilities and security have been achieved with a flagship development in Cleveland where Leeds-based cell lock manufacturer Pickersgill-Kaye has played a significant role.

Cleveland Police's new state of the art headquarters in Middlesbrough has just opened, funded by a multi-million pound Private Finance Initiative (PFI). This has seen a radical rethink of how the police maximises efficiency and its ability to accommodate detainees.

With a 50-cell Detainee Handling Centre, including a segregated and secure Prevention of Terrorism Suite for terrorist suspects - believed to be the most advanced in the country and only the third of its kind - the £56m St Hilda's complex provides headquarters for the police force's Redcar and Cleveland districts.

The facility will deal with 70 per cent of the 32,000 arrests a year across Middlesbrough and it has been designed and constructed to comply with the Home Office Police Buildings Design Guide - Custody Element PD Version 4 (2004).

The centre increases the speed and safety of detainee handling, with secure vehicle docking, video links to court, an identification suite, and with CCTV in all cells for improved detainee safety.

And in keeping with the objective of creating facilities that set new standards, the Pickersgill-Kaye Class 1 cell lock was specified by Cleveland Police after it was suggested by the project's contractor. Designed to prevent people from harming themselves, the lock has anti-ligature features that help in the provision of safer cells, whilst providing excellent levels of security and high resistance to damage and wear and tear.

The development of new types of locks, such as the 8-lever Kaye Class 1 Custodial Cell Lock for police and prison services, is making traditional lock technology less appropriate for some modern demands.

In the opinion of Pickersgill-Kaye, new product development and innovation is re-writing market expectations, but there is also the need for complementary opportunities to invest in these new products and technologies.

One such opportunity is the significant development in Middlesbrough, where the PFI initiative freed some of the traditional constraints and allowed access to new technologies to help Cleveland Police realise its ambitions of a facility at the leading edge of custodial provision, as well as police efficiency.

The General Manager of RSTM, formerly Chief Superintendent of Cleveland police, Graham Cummings, who oversaw the St Hilda's development, commented: "With cell door locks, there has been very limited choice until recently. When the Pickersgill-Kaye lock was recommended we took references from other users, such as the Metropolitan Police and received a product demonstration from the company."





Pickersgill-Kaye

- Pickersgill-Kaye, based in Leeds, has built a solid reputation for excellence in engineering over the past 150 years. With a world-wide reputation in the rail and architectural industries, the company has recently diversified and is using its expertise to design and manufacture high quality locks for the UK detention industry.
- The company was instrumental in the development of SS317: A Specification for Locks for Custodial Doors - described as "an international proof of excellence" - and against which the Kaye Class 1 Cell Lock has been successfully tested.
- Working in partnership with Core Systems (NI), Pickersgill-Kaye has also developed a new electromechanical cell door lock and software called "K-Interactive" operated by Core's "OneTouch" electronic control.
- Pickersgill-Kaye has formed partnerships with a number of UK cell door manufacturers which enables it to deliver a complete service, backed up with an excellent level of support.



He continued: "The lock clearly exceeds the criteria provided by the Building Design Guide and not only does it look the part in terms of its modern design, the way it is constructed and its performance are of high quality. It was the answer to what we sought and has helped provide maximum safety, together with a new, more robust key management regime that streamlines efficiency and heightens security - for instance I know that there is no other key anywhere else in the UK, other than our master key that matches the locks in the event of a unit lock-down."

Pickersgill-Kaye's Business Development Manager for Security and Engineering Products, John Moore, added: "The traditional mechanical lock that has been common right across the custodial market had become mature technology and, whilst still relevant and useful, the development of a lock with more levers and increased functionality than those in common use was a positive step forward in the requirements for mechanical locks."

The development of the Pickersgill-Kaye lock led to the introduction of a new standard - SS317: Edition 2. This is now seen as an internationally respected proof of excellence that proves the lock's safe and reliable performance, physical security, durability and resistance to wilful damage, as well as corrosion.

The lock is proven to 300,000 handle operations and door slams and 100,000 key operations, will resist a 12-hour saw attack, and take a side load or end load on the deadbolt of 25kN. The new standard also means it is now necessary to prove that attacking the handle or attempted use of the wrong key does not prevent subsequent unlocking with the authorised key.

The prestigious Cleveland development has been designed to foster closer internal communication through its open plan and it brings together other key elements of the criminal justice system with offices for the Crown Prosecution and Probation Services. Its concept also allows for flexibility in the way new detainees can be received during busy periods and there is scope for future expansion within the structure.

Chief Superintendent Cummings said: "We have been able to centralise and rationalise custodial services across the force. Where we once had six or seven different custodial centres we have now minimised the movement of detainees and officers. That maximises efficiency, particularly when our research showed that 66 per cent of all arrests were made within a 5-6 mile radius of St Hilda's."

He added that St Hilda's is at the centre of the regeneration of a run-down area of Middlesbrough town centre and explained: "There has been widespread interest from throughout the country in this building and the facilities it boasts. It is an impressive structure that helps put Cleveland at the forefront of policing in the UK. When you look at the facilities - whether it is the cell block, or the office accommodation, it is an immense improvement on the facilities we were using before and it provides a look into the future of policing, not just in Cleveland, but the UK as a whole."

RSTM is seeking to work with Pickersgill-Kaye on the future development and enhancement to the supply, installation and maintenance of custodial locks.

Pickersgill-Kaye

Pepper Road, Leeds, LS10 2PP Tel: 0113 277 5531

sales@pkaye.co.uk www.pkaye.co.uk

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