

The neighbourhood paying for private police after spate of burglaries How safe is your area? Use our tool to search which parts of the UK are worst for break-ins

Yair Daren, the director of Security Risk Specialists in London, said: “Police resources are stretched and, where there is a weakening of public services, privatisation gets in. We get calls from not only ultra high-net individuals, but people on nice middle-class roads.”

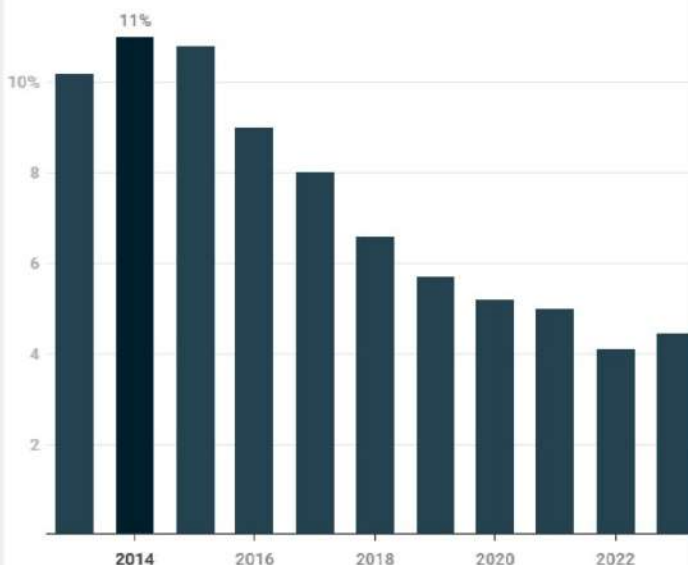
Hill said his team does not use hi-vis jackets and security vans. “We offer protective surveillance in ordinary cars, so we can intercept and intervene when there is suspicious behaviour.”



Residents of Kimbolton Cambridgeshire have hired a private security firm after spate of burglaries
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHY BY JERRY PARKER FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES

Breaking and entering

Theft offences resulting in a charge or summons



Daren said he was receiving increasing numbers of requests from residents’ associations and groups of neighbours who wanted to club together to pay for patrols. Sometimes, however, such arrangements prove to be short-lived, he said. “The problem is one neighbour sometimes wants to pay and the other neighbour doesn’t,” he said. “We have one street where one wealthy resident is funding almost the whole thing and a couple of others are contributing a little bit.”