

Petrol PLAZA

Crime under the spotlight

On 19 March, around 200 independent retailers and forecourt operators, representing over 3,500 sites between them, will gather at Chateau Impney, Worcestershire for this year's Retail's Best where a major theme will be crime prevention and potential security solutions to ensure retailers' businesses are safe for the future.



The question will come under the spotlight in this year's panel debate, chaired by forecourt stalwart Michael O'Loughlin and featuring a panel of leading independent forecourt and convenience operators, including Nerissa Haskic, MPK Group; Raj Hindocha, Hindocha Group and Tom Orford, Falcon Retail. They will be joined by industry experts, including James Lowman, chief executive at the Association of Convenience Stores and Gordon Balmer, commercial manager at the Petrol Retailers Association.

Michael O'Loughlin explains: "This is a unique event, run by retailers, for retailers. We get to discuss the real issues that affect us as a business and that's hugely beneficial."

Moiz Vas, independent retailer and founder of Retail's Best, says: "While we may be moving towards a cashless environment, in the meantime we have some major issues to face if we are to deal with the problem of crime and work in ways to tackle it. With combined input from our trade associations and some of the larger groups, I'm hoping retailers will uncover some new and effective ideas they can take away and implement straight away that will make a real difference."

The security theme will continue through into the Retail's Best 'smart exhibition' later in the evening, where participating suppliers will include:

- **Cennox** – cash management (counter front) & cash tracker
- **Loomis** – secure safe, cash deposit

- **Red Spot Fire & Security** – smoke cloak & CCTV security
- **Staff Safe** – monitored intervention (security)
- **Suresite Group** – payment services

For more information, visit www.retailsbest.co.uk.