



Anti Ligature Air Conditioning Guards

## Mental Health Hospital In The South Of England

### CASE STUDY

**SUMMARY:** The installation of Anti Ligature Air Conditioning Guards and Surface Mounted - Clinched Studs



BEFORE

AFTER

The context of this hospital is important to note, due to it being a low secure mental health establishment for children. Making sure the air conditioning units were properly covered up were top priority, to increase safety for the service users at this hospital.

The project was to replace prior air conditioning guards that had been damaged and were posing a risk to the service users and the staff at the hospital. The hospital had already tried 2 solutions that both failed due to using materials that were easily damaged by the children and made it difficult to maintain.

Previous air conditioning guards were a hazard, as children were kicking the bottom panels of the guard causing them to break.

Taking this into account, children ended up snapping the panels to self-harm or attack the staff - posing a health and safety risk to those at this hospital.

The maintenance staff at the hospital had to resort to adding extra sections of wood to make the covers stronger and more durable, only for the children to find a new way to cause damage and disruption.

Another challenge the hospital faced was at least twice a year the air conditioning units needed to be cleaned and maintained. By drilling into their old screws 2/3 times meant that the screws were rendered useless, so these designs became flawed.

## RESULTS

The air conditioning guards delivered were clean looking with no visible fittings on display and easy access for cleaning. The strength was also considered with the guards being made from 2mm steel with a strengthening strut inside. Finally, the guards were made to be anti-ligature with IP3x grilles and 45-degree chamfered edges.

The priority was health and safety, Contour was keen to deliver a high-quality design to solve the problems that the hospital faced. By offering a consultation and a sample, the client was confident that Contour could deliver a secure solution.



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