

October 2023

# CASE STUDY

CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH  
UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE THE  
BENEFITS OF UTILISING  
AICO'S IOT TECHNOLOGY IN  
STUDENT HOUSING



TOGETHER WITH



Canterbury  
Christ Church  
University

CANTERBURY CHRIST  
CHURCH UNIVERSITY HAS  
RECENTLY STARTED  
UPGRADING THEIR ALARM  
SYSTEM TO A CATEGORY LD1  
AND IMPLEMENTED THE  
HOMELINK CONNECTED  
HOME SOLUTION WITHIN  
THEIR STUDENT  
ACCOMMODATION.

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Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) has recently started upgrading their alarm system to a Category LD1 and implemented the HomeLINK Connected Home Solution to monitor indoor air quality and increase proactive maintenance within their student accommodation.

CCCU are proud to have supported thousands of students and graduates in achieving their individual potential, injecting talent and knowledge into the economy and helping communities flourish.

The University offers student accommodation at a range of prices to suit the budgets of their students. Their accommodation guarantee means that all students are guaranteed a place in accommodation during their first year.

## NUISANCE ALARMS IN STUDENT HOUSING

British Standard BS 5839-6:2019+A1:2020 covers specific recommendations for fire alarm systems in all domestic premises and covers both new-build and existing properties.

The University were looking to upgrade their domestic smoke alarm systems to a Category LD1 in some of their student housing. Category LD1 is a high level of protection and includes alarm coverage in all areas where a fire could start.

CCCU were receiving call-outs for every alarm activation and wanted to find a solution to reduce the number of call-outs Security were attending to nuisance alarms.

They wanted to be able to identify trends in alarm activations and improve resident engagement by equipping students with knowledge and awareness around Home Life Safety to reduce nuisance activations.

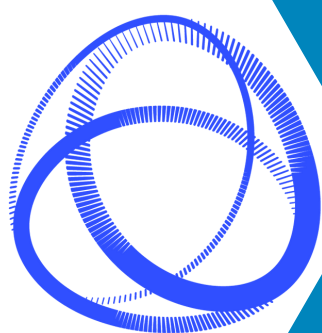
The University also wanted to be able to monitor temperature, humidity and Carbon Dioxide, providing actionable insights into condensation, damp & mould risk and indoor air quality to enable the creation of healthier, safer homes.

## REMOTE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

The solution identified by CCCU to achieve these goals was Aico's Ei1000G Gateway and Environmental Sensors. This remote property management solution includes custom notifications and tags so that the right departments and individuals in the University get notified at the right time. This has led to a cost reduction in call-outs as the University has set up personalised notifications to the relevant departments.

The Installation of the Gateways has created an assigned workflow so that student safety is never compromised or delayed. By specifying the HomeLINK Connected Home Solution, the University have utilised IoT Technology to enhance student well-being and better understand their properties.

Constant monitoring of the alarms via notifications has allowed the University to know immediately if there are maintenance issues like an alarm head removal from the base-plate, low battery, or false activations and address any potential problems immediately,



The Gateway system with instant notifications has helped us already to identify which students are triggering the alarms and then addressing the issue. The added benefit of the environmental sensors has led us to prioritise some remedial works to improve thermal efficiency of certain properties. Overall, so far it has shown how technology can benefit us as landlords, and plans are already in place to roll out across more of our properties.

CCCU Estates Team



# ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL SENSORS

The Gateway extracts information from the HomeLINK Environmental Sensors and sends it seamlessly to the HomeLINK Portal. The Portal allows the University to drill deeper into the detail using various reporting tools.

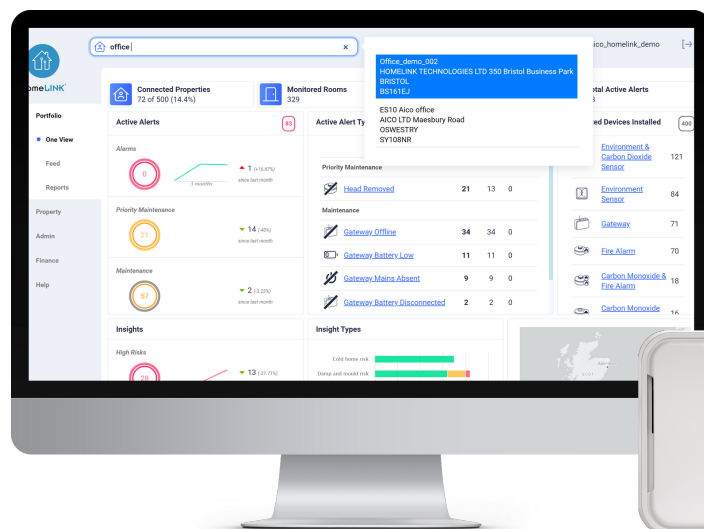
This data has enabled CCCU to make decisions on any building works that need to be carried out in the properties, to improve ventilation or insulation and work towards their goal of becoming more sustainable.

## BENEFITS OF THE INSTALLATION



A quality product that is easy to install and set up. There was excellent support from Brad and the entire Aico team throughout.

Cloakes Electrical



The installation of the Gateway & Environmental Sensors in CCCU's student accommodation has proved to tackle more problems than it initially intended. Insights from the Environmental Sensors have highlighted the key areas that needed addressing in terms of the properties ventilation and insulation.

However, it has also assured the University that all of their alarm systems are working as they should. Thanks to the Gateway, if any event was to arise, multiple people would be alerted, replacing the need for a warden to visit the property.

## FURTHER ROLLOUT OF HOMELINK'S IOT TECHNOLOGY

Canterbury Christ Church University have been able to experience the benefits of using IoT technology in student housing. The University have already put plans in place for a further rollout of HomeLINK devices with the support of their Regional Specification Manager, Brad Wain.



**I was thrilled to see CCCU implement Aico's HomeLINK technology. Student accommodation providers play a key role in supporting these students through some hard years and providing these properties with not only LD1 multi-sensor protection, but environmental sensors to monitor the air quality that these students are living in, showcases the utmost care and consideration to the students staying in these properties.**

Brad Wain, Regional Specification Manager, Aico



To find out more about how the Connected Home Solution can help provide safer, healthier and more sustainable homes please visit: [www.aico.co.uk/homelink](http://www.aico.co.uk/homelink)