

Jose's favourite eaterie bugged

A SECRET bugging device used by industrial spies has been discovered in Jose Mourinho's favourite London restaurant.

The tiny gadget was found hidden in an electric plug in Portal, a

BY CHRIS MILLAR

Portuguese restaurant where the Chelsea boss is said to have plotted Ashley Cole's transfer from Arsenal.

Staff at the restaurant in the City say that several members of the Premiership champions' team had dined at a table next to the bug days before the discovery was made.

Now Portal's owner Antonio Correia has hired agents from the International Corporate Group (ICG) to make regular sweeps of the premises in an effort to guard against any further devices.

Mr Correia said: "We couldn't believe it. I bought a radio for my staff, so they could listen to music. It produced terrible feedback,

and on one frequency we could hear what was being said near to the serving hatch.

"Who knows if the device was connected to them (the Chelsea players)? To me, it doesn't matter: a lot of my clients work at the Stock Exchange or for finance companies and lawyers. They are people who take privacy seriously, so it is very important for me as a businessman to protect them."

It is thought that Portal is the first restaurant in Britain to employ surveillance specialists but it is a relatively standard practice on Wall Street.

ICG's director Will Geddes said: "To be honest, I'm surprised we haven't been asked to look at a restaurant in the UK before."

The device found at Portal had been in place for less than a day, Mr Geddes said.

A spokesman for Portal said: "This is a very private place where City people feel their privacy is guaranteed. We have taken steps to ensure that. It might seem far-fetched, but we are serious."



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