



## Meet your local policing team



Sgt Simon Coffield



PC Tash Wigfield



PC Anthony Wilson



PC Rose Thorpe



PCSO Martin Critchlow



PCSO Nicky Healy



PCSO Andrew Ferguson



PCSO Evelyn Allen

### Welcome!

Hello, my name is Paul Laity and I am the local Inspector in Devonport.

We will be bringing you a quarterly newsletter full of safety tips and crime prevention advice, as well as giving you updates on issues and priorities that are of concern to local communities.

In this summer edition, we have included useful information about how to stay safe while enjoying our beautiful region over the coming months.

Myself and my colleagues work hard to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

If you see us out and about – please come and say hello. We'd love to meet you.

### In this edition:

1. Crime prevention advice:
  - o Keeping your home secure
  - o Prevent car theft
  - o Rogue traders
2. Local updates:
  - o What's happening in your area
  - o Meet your local team
3. Getting in touch
  - o Reporting
  - o Launch of Police.UK app
  - o Sign up to Devon & Cornwall Alert



Visit our website for lots of useful information

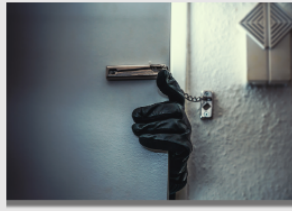
- 101 non-urgent
- 999 in an emergency



Find your neighbourhood policing team at:  
 [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

# Crime prevention advice: keep yourself safe from crime

## Top tips to keep your home secure over summer



As the warmer weather approaches, it finally means we can start to open our windows and doors to let in some fresh air and cool down.

However, be aware that this can also be a green light for potential burglars to pay an unwelcome visit to your home.

So, to help keep your home as safe as possible, make sure to follow these easy tips:

- Lock your front door if you're in the back garden. Opportunist thieves can be in and out of a house in moments
- Remember to secure garages and outbuildings. Don't forget to store away bikes and garden equipment - they can be an attractive option for thieves!
- If you're leaving the house, make sure to close all your windows. Keeping windows closed and blinds or curtains drawn can also help to keep your home cool (and secure).

For more information about keeping your home secure, visit: [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crime-prevention](https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/crime-prevention)

## Making your vehicle unattractive to thieves



Having your car broken into and losing your personal belongings to thieves can be very distressing. Here are a few simple steps you can take to keep your vehicle, and what's in it, safe.

- Always lock your vehicle and make sure your windows are closed - it's simple, but effective
- Take your belongings with you or hide them - coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief
- Park in well-lit or busier areas - it can take less than 30 seconds to break into a vehicle. Parking in well-lit areas and busy streets increases the chances of a thief being seen, so they'll probably steer clear
- Secure anything on the outside of your vehicle - anything left on roof-racks or holiday top boxes can be easily stolen. Make them more secure by using cable locks, padlocks or self locking tools chests. If you can avoid it don't leave anything in them at all.

Further guidance available here: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/>

## Stay alert for rogue traders

As we move into summer, we'd like to remind you to stay vigilant for rogue traders offering home and garden services, such as plumbing, roofing, gardening etc.

Rogue traders are often skilled at manipulating circumstances. They will likely offer sub-standard services, employing deceptive tactics, and overcharging for their services. Of course, there are reliable traders who do a wonderful job, but please remember to use those who are recommended by people you know. Remember:

- Don't agree to work offered by unsolicited doorstep callers
- Don't rely on posts or recommendations from social media sites without doing your own research
- Don't be swayed by glossy flyers or impressive websites
- Don't pay cash, agree to be taken to the bank, or transfer money before any work is started
- Don't be rushed into making a decision
- Do get three written quotes from reputable businesses
- Do research the companies you're looking to use and ask for references
- Do take time to decide who to use and make sure you have confidence in their skills and abilities
- Do ask to see professional qualifications and public liability insurance
- Do make sure you have full contact details (address) for a tradesperson, not just a mobile number
- Do check if you're entitled to your 14-day cooling-off period





## What's happening in your area:

Devonport has seen the arrival of the Neighbourhood Support team, a new team containing a Sergeant and 6 PCs, specifically designed to provide support to existing neighbourhood teams during times of increased activity.

The team were requested for the Devonport area due to a significant increase in reports of drug dealing, with open drug use and associated anti-social behaviour affecting the residents.

Their presence in Devonport has led to an upturn in stop checks, warrants and arrests in the area, as well as an increase in high visibility patrols and community engagement.

West and St Budeaux sectors have been concentrating on road safety following recent tragic events in the area. Early May saw the team organise a traffic day of action, an event in which we collaborated with our traffic teams and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency. During the day we set up at two different sites in the area, we used spotters to identify vehicles of interest for offences such as driving whilst using a mobile phone, not wearing seatbelts, as well as vehicle defects of interest to the DVSA. We also had a team set up with a speed detection device in various places around the patch, this has continued after the day of action and will continue regularly as part of our usual activities due to the positive feedback received from the public.

Youth anti-social behaviour continues to be an issue around St Budeaux Square, this has resulted in several youths being issued ASB1 warnings and arrests made. Since the action taken by the team, we have seen a decrease of activity in the area.

## What's happening in your area:

There are a number of ways you can contact your local team.

In an emergency call 999. In a non-emergency you can contact us on 101 or make an online report by visiting [www.devon-cornwall.police.uk](http://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk)

You can meet your local team face to face for a chat at any of the events shown below, or stop us whilst we are on patrol in your area.

The DC Alert system is a great way to keep up to date with things happening in your area, it is a two-way community messaging system which allows you to respond directly with any information.

Please visit [alerts.dc.police.uk](http://alerts.dc.police.uk) for more information.

Lastly, please scan the below QR code to take part in the Safer Plymouth community engagement survey.



## Meet your local team

We will be at these events in the coming months:

### St Budeaux Library drop-in session.

1pm – 2pm on 13/06, 11/07 and 08/08

### Meadow Café – Coffee with Cops

10.30am – 11.30am 10/06

### Jan Cutting Centre – Coffee with Cops

10am – 11am 24/06



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 101 non-urgent  
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## Getting in touch

We're hugely busy over the summer, keeping both local communities and our visitors safe.

We're always here if you need us – but if it's not an emergency (i.e., a crime isn't happening right now and no-one is in immediate danger) then reporting online will save you time and means we have all the information we need to respond appropriately.

Scan the QR code below to take you to our website home page.



**Non Emergency**  
dc.police.uk

If a crime has already happened or to give information about the crime



**WebChat**

To get updates visit  
dc.police.uk and click on  
the Webchat widget



**999 Emergency**

When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby or immediate action is required



Contact details for Deaf or hard of hearing / speech impaired

### Emergency



**999 BSL**  
(video relay for BSL users)



**Text 999**  
(You must register for this service at  
www.emergencysms.org.uk)



**18000**  
Minicom/  
textphone

### Non-Emergency



**Text 67101**

**SignLive**  
SignLive  
(video relay for BSL users)  
for Non-Emergency



**18001 101**

## Not sure if it's a police matter?

There are situations which look like they should be police matters, but which are actually dealt with by other agencies, such as noisy neighbours, dog fouling, fly tipping and more.

To avoid delays, always visit our website first to see if this is an issue which is more appropriately dealt with by another agency.

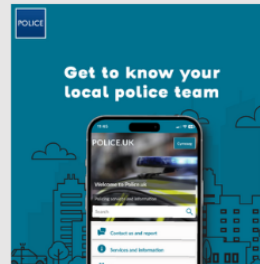


## New non-urgent incident police app launched: Police.UK

Members of the public in Devon & Cornwall can now report crimes and incidents and find out how to access support for victims just by using a smartphone app, Police.UK.

The benefits of downloading the app:

- It offers a quick and easy way of reporting non-urgent incidents
- You can find crime prevention advice for a wide range of issues, such as burglary or vehicle safety tips
- Shares information about local neighbourhood policing teams, listing who is on the team, local crime priorities and any upcoming meetings in the community.



Don't miss out, download the free Police.UK app now.

App is available via the iOS App store and Google Play.

## Devon & Cornwall Alert: keep updated on police activities

Interested in what the police are doing in your local area? Sign up to Devon & Cornwall Alert! You can find out the latest from the police, including good news stories, appeals and updates on crime.

The app also allows you to respond to police updates, so if you have any information that may be relevant, you can get in touch through Devon & Cornwall Alert.

## Keep up to date with what's happening in your area:

Social media: Twitter: @DevonportPolice Facebook: Devonport and West Plymouth Police

Website: [www.dc.police.uk](http://www.dc.police.uk) and enter your postcode

D&C Alert: Sign up at [alerts.dc.police.uk](http://alerts.dc.police.uk) to hear instantly about the crimes happening in your area.

Visit our website for lots of useful information



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