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Message sent by

Dear Westend Neighbourhood Watch members,

You may have heard that there have been a number of break-ins recently to both secure and insecure premises, including some still under construction/renovation, in addition to further car thefts and break-ins.

Whilst the varying degrees of security of the properties has been overcome, on some occasions there have still been times when the perpetrators have taken advantage of insecure properties and windows partially ajar during the recent spell of warm weather. In addition, there have been a few regrettable incidents where householders, for whatever reason, have become complacent over their regular home and vehicle security and simply left them unlocked over long periods or overnight.

As a policing team and a division we have recognised the issue and in addition to robust and timely investigation of matters being reported to us, an on-going process which has yielded several positive results over recent weeks, we have been carrying out overnight patrols in the affected areas within the West End and elsewhere, concentrating on the areas suggested by our most recent information and occurrences.

Part of our strategy also revolves around the on-going need to provide strong crime prevention advice around securing property (houses & cars), removing valuable property from vehicles overnight, and making sure that car keys and valuables are not immediately apparent within dwellings.

Additionally, there have been a few times recently when members of the public have actually seen or heard suspicious persons during the hours of darkness, but for various reasons have elected not to call us at that time; waiting up to an hour, or occasionally till next morning to call us. This has obviously limited our ability to respond immediately and hopefully catch perpetrators and check out suspicious persons nearby.

We have therefore taken every opportunity to encourage people to phone in either via '101', or '999' if the matter is on-going, and I would like to ask you to pass on this message as widely as possible within your teams and organisations, to colleagues and to friends within the Aberdeen area as both a quick reminder on the vital importance of security matters and by way of reassurance that Police Scotland in Aberdeen are taking the required steps to address this issue.

Please be assured that if a member of the public is not sure if something is suspicious or not, they are definitely not 'bothering us' by getting in touch as some seem to think. We always encourage people to let us make the decision as to who may or not be suspicious, and ask that they play their part in letting us work on their behalf by calling in at the time if they are at all uneasy.

If you or any of your neighbours have any queries, or if they have any information regarding any crime related matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch **via '999' if the matter is on-going**, or else via the '101' non-emergency number. If you prefer to email, the West End Community Policing e-mails as follows:

HazleheadAshleyQueensCrossCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

AiryhallBroomhillGarthdeeCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TorryFerryhillCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

In addition, I have included details below of a page on the Police Scotland website which provides useful advice on securing and protecting your property:

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/safety-advice/at-home-and-work/protect-your-home/>

Thank you for your assistance in passing on this message as widely as possible and please be assured our efforts are on-going and will continue.

Regards.

Inspector Colin Taylor, Westend Policing Team