

Prevention is better than the cure...

Crime Prevention Newsletter | Spring 2020



Your crime prevention team

There is a Crime Prevention team in each of the five Policing Districts across West Yorkshire, addressing crime types ranging from burglary to modern slavery.

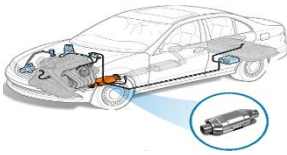


Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WYPCrimePrevention

Their job is to support individuals, communities and businesses in reducing the opportunity for crime to occur. Please get in touch if you would like advice by emailing hqcpo@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk or 101.

Catalytic converter theft prevention



Catalytic converters control and convert exhaust emissions from your vehicle into less toxic substances. If

yours is stolen, you will know because your vehicle's engine will sound different.

To reduce the risk of having your catalytic converter stolen, you should:

- ❗ Park your car in a locked garage where possible, but if this isn't an option, then park it in a well-lit and well-populated area
- ❗ Park close to fences, walls or a kerb to make the theft more difficult
- ❗ Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic converter
- ❗ If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath
- ❗ If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts on
- ❗ You can even purchase a 'cage clamp' which is a cage device that locks in around the converter to make it more difficult to remove
- ❗ Speak to your dealership about the possibility of adding a tilt sensor that will activate the alarm should any thief try to jack the vehicle up to steal the converter
- ❗ If you see someone acting suspiciously under a vehicle, report it to the Police. Obtain as much information as possible

For more information, please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice

Neighbourhood Watch – 35 years celebration!



WEST YORKSHIRE
POLICE



July marks the 35th year West Yorkshire has been a part of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. The first group being set up in Wyke in July 1985. There are now over 7000 individual groups.

Members of Neighbourhood Watch create their own community of people looking out for each other and their wider community. They play a part in vital information sharing between themselves and the Police, on issues such as Anti-Social behaviour, Burglary and community intelligence.

Other benefits of being a part of a Neighbourhood Watch include:

- ❗ Reduce/prevent local crime and disorder
- ❗ Reduce fear of crime
- ❗ Address issues relating to anti-social behaviour
- ❗ Create safer neighbourhoods
- ❗ Build community spirit and cohesion
- ❗ Reassure members of the public
- ❗ Enhance partnerships with other community groups
- ❗ Assist in the detection and apprehension of criminals
- ❗ Provide valuable information to the police
- ❗ Improve quality of life and the local environment

Interested? Contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator on wyp.nhw@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk or by calling 101 to be put in touch with your NHW scheme.

For more information, please visit our website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk/advice/our-services/neighbourhood-watch



Push payment fraud

One of the latest and fastest growing scams are by fraudsters who steal savings by conning victims into transferring money into their own accounts. It is known as authorised push payment fraud because the victims instruct their banks to make the payments, unaware that crooks will get the cash.

Criminals often pose as bank employees convincing customers that their account has been compromised and they must move their savings to a new “safe” account. Almost 60,000 people lost £208million to this sort of fraud in the first six months of 2019.

The scam goes something like this:

- ❗ The victim usually gets a text from what seems to be their own bank
- ❗ The message often asks to verify an unauthorised payment and to call the bank fraud department straight away. They provide a number to ring
- ❗ The number if rung often gets you through to an automated message with what seems like standard security messages, just like your bank would
- ❗ The fraudster suggests setting up a new account but the ‘new account’ belongs to the criminal. If the payment is made the fraud is complete



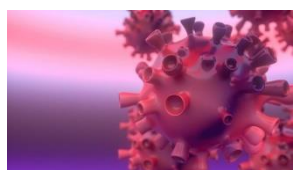
Fraudsters play on panic and urgency; take five minutes to think about it. Tell two other people about what has happened. A discussion is more likely to trigger ‘suspicions’ about the whole episode.



For more advice and information:

Report to Action Fraud on 0300 1232040 or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk.
More advice on takefive-stopfraud.org.uk/

Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Advice and guidance



The current situation is a challenging time for all and it is important that we stick together and support those who are in need.

You should all now be aware of what you can do to keep yourself and your loved ones healthy and how you can help others who are having to self-isolate. There is however, a growing concern in relation to COVID 19 related ‘scams’. It is important we take heed of the advice and guidance from reputable sites such as West Yorkshire Police and Action Fraud.

Key points

- ❗ Do not click on links from emails purporting to be from the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) or World Health Authority (WHO) asking recipients to click for more information about the virus in your area
- ❗ Be careful of investment scams relating to today’s volatile stock market
- ❗ Many people have fallen foul of buying face masks and hand gel from unknown sources
- ❗ Keep alert in supermarket car parks where opportunists have been known to steal from shopping trolleys

For more advice and information, visit: www.actionfraud.police.uk