



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER: EDITION 17 – SUMMER 2020

TIME FOR A FARM SECURITY STOCK CHECK, SAY POLICE

The evenings are much brighter now and there are many more agricultural vehicles on the roads and in fields and farmyards. This may prove tempting for criminals who want to target the farming community, so Police are asking farmers to carry out a farm security stock check to ensure their property and livestock are secure.

Rural crime severely impacts the farm business, and Police want to remind farmers to be vigilant at this time of year. There are many steps farmers can take to prevent, deter and reduce farm theft:

- **Access to your property:** Restrict access to your yard, the fewer ways in the better; use locked gates or security posts if practical.
- **Boundaries:** Fencing, hedges and walls should be robust, well maintained and regularly checked. Find out about alarms and the latest technology, such as point-to-point electronic beams, to protect the perimeter of your property.
- **Lighting:** Good lighting helps make a farmyard both safe and secure.
- **Vehicles:** ALWAYS remove keys and lock vehicles. Secure or immobilise vehicles, plant, trailers and equipment when not in use. Keep items of value in securely locked sheds, out of sight. Police operate a trailer marking scheme which is free of charge (contact your local crime prevention officer for further information). Store equipment and vehicles out of sight. Physically secure ATV's using heavy duty chains and padlocks or block the machine in with other equipment so that it cannot be pushed away. Consider more sophisticated options include

Tracker, CESAR marking systems and immobilisers which can help prevent theft and help police retrieve and return recovered items.

- **Tools:** Lock away hand tools when not in use not only to prevent theft but also so they cannot be used by the thief against your own property. Engrave items with house number and postcode or use CESAR.
- **Alarms/CCTV:** Consider fitting alarms and install a CCTV system. Ensure the correct CCTV signage is placed round the perimeter of your property. Signs can be a great deterrent in themselves.
- **Record items:** Keep an inventory of items, including all serial numbers, makes, models and any distinctive damage or marks. Photograph items.
- **Livestock:** Regularly check fields where stock is grazing. Keep gates (including yard gates) locked with British Standard closed shackle locks and ensure that all fixing bolts cannot be removed easily. Invert or cap gate hinges to prevent gates being lifted off to provide access. Take photographs of valuable animals with brand and/or ear tags clearly visible.
- **Be a good neighbour:** Report all suspicious activity.

Chief Inspector Ian Magee said: "It is important that we all work together



If you would like to receive some dual message stickers please contact 028 207 62225.

Please note: Stocks are limited and will be provided on a first come first serve basis.

to make the countryside safer for everyone. Reporting promptly to the police any activity that raises your suspicions is a good way to initiate our investigation and will help to deter criminals and reduce crime in your area. It could be an unusual vehicle seen parked or travelling on a road in the area, or someone calling and asking for directions. Remember that these could well be criminals checking out what's on offer, what vehicles they will need to transport the machinery they intend to steal, and the level of farm security. Take a note of the vehicle registration number and a description of the vehicle and pass that onto Police. Criminals are always on the lookout for valuable items that they can easily re-sell. Quads, trailers and other items of farm machinery should therefore be kept locked away in garages or outbuildings, when not in use. And, for added security, people should consider locking gates, using British Standard closed shackled padlocks, at yards and on laneways to prevent unauthorised vehicular access. "Preventing crime and being switched on to crime prevention will help to protect your property. Don't make life easy for the criminals".

MESSAGE

from PCSP Chairperson
Councillor Oliver McMullan

I have been so encouraged to see how communities have come together at this time of need whether it be through delivering groceries or prescriptions, making contact with people feeling lonely and isolated or providing a listening ear to those worrying or grieving for their loved ones.

Community groups, volunteers and Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have shown such resilience and compassion during this unprecedented time it really shows what makes communities special. I would especially like to thank those within the Neighbourhood Watch Network who have supported us in the PCSP to share information in a fast and efficient manner whilst respecting social distancing guidelines. We all hope to see an end to this ongoing crisis however I would urge each and every one of you to continue the excellent work by maintaining social distances and supporting each other in a safe manner.

The Policing and Community Safety Partnership is no different to other organisations. We are adapting and changing to the current situation but we are still here if you need us. Take the time to read and share the information provided within this newsletter as it may help you, your friends, families and neighbours to stay safe. You will see a list of useful contact details at the back of this edition please do not hesitate to make contact if and when required.

Take care and stay safe!

Oliver



WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Police continue to tackle the issue of anti-social behaviour in your area, and have asked anyone who has any concerns to speak to them.

Chief Inspector Ian Magee said, "We understand anti-social behaviour can have a detrimental effect on a community. That's why we continue to work with our partner agencies, local residents and community representatives to find solutions to any incidents of antisocial or criminal behaviour. To those who think this kind of behaviour is acceptable - it is not. Where offences are identified we will deal with those involved in a robust manner.

"Anyone involved in anti-social behaviour or any activity that is outside the law could find themselves with a criminal record which could ultimately affect travel, education and employment opportunities in the future.

"So our message is very straightforward - be respectful of those around you, don't become involved in antisocial or criminal activity".



AUTISM AWARENESS CARD

The Autism Awareness Card is a practical tool to support autistic individuals to communicate their needs in a wide variety of environments and prevent misunderstanding or a difficult situation escalating. It has been developed by Autism NI in partnership with statutory services, including PSNI and Emergency Services.

In a situation where the autistic individual is stressed or anxious, the card can make it easier for that person to communicate their circumstances or needs. Initially developed to support the autism community in emergency situations, the card has also been useful in a range of situations, including shops, colleges and workplaces. More recently, individuals and families have found it useful to carry the Awareness Card when engaging in essential trips or exercise during the Coronavirus pandemic and associated Government restrictions.

The Autism Awareness Card can be issued to those with a diagnosis of autism. If at any time you require a tool to support you in communicating your needs or your child's needs, this card can be shown. It informs someone of your needs and gives an emergency contact to call if necessary. Autism NI can also be contacted to provide further advice or support.

You can apply for an Autism Awareness Card online: www.autismni.org/autism-awareness-card. For more information or support, please contact Autism NI.

Tel: 028 90 401729 Option 1
Email: info@autismni.org



HOME SECURITY

When leaving your home it is important to get into a good routine to ensure you, your property and belongings are as secure as possible. In order not to forget anything it is useful to develop a habit when locking up your home. ✓

- Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you're only going out for a few minutes
- Double lock door
Make sure all valuables are out of sight
- Never leave any ID, letters or car documents in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways
In the evening, shut the curtains and leave lights on
- Keep handbags/keys away from the letterbox or cat flap as a thief can hook keys/valuables through even a small opening
- You can use a timer device to automatically turn lights or a radio on
- Set your burglar alarm
- Lock your shed/garage
- Lock your gate/side gate
- Lock your bike inside a secure shed/garage or to a robust fitting bolted to the ground or wall, like a ground anchor

PERSONAL SAFETY PLANNING

The home is not always a safe space. If you have concerns regarding domestic violence please report to the PSNI. NEVER approach the perpetrator about their behaviours as there would likely be repercussions for the victim.

Covid-19/Coronavirus: Safety measures for those experiencing Domestic Violence

Covid-19 will have serious impacts on the lives of women and children. Fear and uncertainty will be exacerbated by isolation with a perpetrator. We want to reassure those experiencing domestic violence that there is still support available.

PSNI
If you are in danger:
RING 999

SAFETY PLANNING

1. Always keep your mobile phone charged and with you.
2. If your phone is pay as you go try to keep credit available on it. Even without credit you can ring 999
3. Keep your car keys in a place that you can easily access.
4. Try to keep important documents, some money, bank card together in a place you can easily access.
5. If safe to do so agree a code word with family/friends outside the house who will ring 999 when it is used.
6. If possible make sure children know how to ring 999.
7. Is safe to do so make sure children know a code word that will trigger them to leave the home with you immediately.
8. If you fear an imminent attack try to move to a low risk area of the house. Avoid kitchens and garages as these areas are likely to have potential weapons.
9. **If you ring 999 from a mobile and are unable to speak press 55 on your phone when prompted. This will alert the call handlers that this is an emergency situation. Try to provide whatever information is possible.**

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Causeway Women's Aid 9-5 Mon - Fri. 028 703 56573
24 Hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline 0808 802 1414

ADOPTING GOOD CYBER SECURITY MEASURES WHILE WORKING FROM HOME

As part of the current restrictions around the Covid-19 pandemic, many of us will be working from home. This may present new challenges in terms of protecting yourself against online security.

District Commander Jeremy Lindsey said, "During this unprecedented situation, it is becoming more evident that criminals are exploiting Coronavirus online by sending phishing/scam emails to try and trick users into clicking a bad link. If clicked, these links could lead to malware infection and loss of data like passwords. The scams may claim to have a 'cure' for the virus, offer a financial reward, by encouraging you to donate money or even just provide a link that will allegedly take you to the latest guidance. These 'phishing' attempts have been seen in several countries and can lead to loss of money and sensitive data. The email may use the subject Coronavirus or Covid-19 as a lure, however you should be suspicious of any unexpected emails you receive.

Here are five ways to spot phishing attacks:

1. The email asks you to confirm personal information.
2. The web and email addresses do not look genuine or are from unusual domains.
3. It's poorly written, e.g. there are spelling mistakes or grammatical errors.
4. There's a suspicious attachment.
5. The message creates a sense of urgency or makes you think you will benefit by clicking.

"Phishing/scam emails may appear authentic and be difficult to spot, therefore if you receive any suspicious internal emails or any emails that 'don't feel right', it is important that you do not click on any attachment or link. Trust your instincts. If you think something appears unusual or suspicious, it probably is.

If you are working from home, here are a few tips which will help protect you while online:

1. Use a strong password for all devices and social media accounts. Change default passwords on all your devices when initially installed (especially your Wi-Fi router at home) and consider using password managers to store and protect your passwords.
2. Turn on the two-factor authentication setting on all your accounts and devices.
3. Use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to protect and encrypt the data you send or receive. It will also scan devices for malicious software.
4. Set all your devices and apps to download and install updates automatically to ensure that any crucial fixes are not missed and the risk of your devices being infected with malware is reduced.
5. Back up to safeguard your most important personal data and information, back them up to an external hard drive or cloud-based storage system.
6. Install anti-virus Install and activate anti-virus software on all your devices, preferably set it to update automatically. This will help you to run a complete scan of your system and check for any malware infections.
7. Only visit trusted websites especially when online shopping. Keep an eye out for websites that have a padlock sign in the address bar, as this shows that the connection and your personal information (e.g. credit card information) is encrypted and secure.
8. It is important to review the privacy, password and security settings for all your social media accounts to ensure they are as secure as possible.
9. Maintain contact with your team, as it is easy to feel isolated or lose focus when working at home.

PCSP Chairperson Cllr Oliver McMullan said "As a PCSP, we are aware of scams and incidents where local people have been targeted online. It is important, especially, at this time when many of us are working from home or are online more, to ensure we take measures to protect ourselves from online fraud."

More information on working from home is available from the National Cyber Security Centre:
www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

PSNI CONTACT DETAILS



NAME	RANK	ROLE	STATION	MOBILE No.	EMAIL
Jeremy Lindsay	Superintendent	District Commander	Coleraine	07827 279 444	Jeremy.Lindsay@psni.pnn.police.uk
Donna Bowden	Chief Inspector	Chief Inspector	Coleraine	07801 738 181	Donna.bowden@psni.pnn.police.uk
Ian Magee	Chief Inspector	Chief Inspector	Coleraine	07801 738 790	Ian.Magee@psni.pnn.police.uk
Colin Shaw	Inspector	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Limavady	07795152784	colin.shaw@psni.pnn.police.uk
David Burns	Inspector	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Ballycastle	07557 261 940	David.Burns2@psni.pnn.police.uk
Luke Moyne	Inspector	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Coleraine	07827925603	Luke.moyne@psni.pnn.police.uk
Diane Roxborough	Inspector	Local Policing Team - A	Coleraine/Limavady	07920186765	diane.roxborough@psni.pnn.police.uk
Tony Moore	T/Inspector	Local Policing Team - B	Coleraine/Limavady	07764638360	Tony.Moore@psni.pnn.police.uk
Marty Mullan	T/Inspector	Local Policing Team - C	Coleraine/Limavady	07917384635	marty.mullan@psni.pnn.police.uk
Stephen McCafferty	Inspector	Local Policing Team - D	Coleraine/Limavady	07920186765	Stephen.McCafferty@psni.pnn.police.uk
Bjorn O'Brien	Inspector	Local Policing Team - E	Coleraine/Limavady	07920186765	bjorn.obrien@psni.pnn.police.uk
Darrell Mclvor	Sergeant	Community Planning	Coleraine	07796656962	DARRELL.MCIVOR@psni.pnn.police.uk
Phillip Graham	Sergeant	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Coleraine	07500899709	PHIL.GRAHAM@psni.pnn.police.uk
Tim McCullough	Sergeant	Neighbourhood Policing Team	Ballycastle	07557261948	timothy.mccullough@psni.pnn.police.uk

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS PCSP CONTACT DETAILS - pcsp@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk or 028 703 47034

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS IN AN EMERGENCY CALL - 999

PSNI non emergency number is **101**

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

24 Hours Domestic & Sexual Violence Helpline - 0808 802 1414

Causeway Women's Aid - 028 703 56573

Foyle Women's Aid - 028 714 16800

Crime Prevention Officer - 07764638397

COVID-19 COMMUNITY HELPLINE 0800 802 0020

Childline - 0800 1111

Action Fraud - 0300 123 2040

Trading Standards - 0300 123 6262

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS SUPPORTED BY THE
NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**

**With thanks to PSNI, Neighbourhood Watch,
Crimestoppers, Causeway Women's Aid and Autism NI
for providing information in this leaflet.**



#StampOutRuralCrime

Here are some steps you can take to protect your property

1. **Restrict access to your yard, the fewer ways in, the better.**



2. **Fencing, hedges and walls should be robust, well maintained and regularly checked. Find out about alarms and the latest technology, such as point-to-point electronic beams.**



3. **Good lighting, alarms and CCTV - consider fitting sensor lighting, a CCTV system or an alarm.**



4. **ALWAYS remove keys and lock vehicles. Secure or immobilise vehicles, plant, trailers and equipment when not in use. Keep items of value in securely locked sheds, out of sight. Police operate a trailer marking scheme which is free of charge (contact your local crime prevention officer for further information).**



5. **Regularly check fields where stock are grazing. Keep gates (including yard gates) locked and ensure that all fixing bolts cannot be removed easily. Invert or cap gate hinges to prevent gates being lifted off to provide access. Take photographs of valuable animals with brand and/or ear tags clearly visible.**



6. **Be a good neighbour...report all suspicious activity to Police on the 101 number.**

