



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

Image credit: Megan Seymour

Honiton Town: Neighbourhood Policing Newsletter July 2023



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Devon and Cornwall Police



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Devon & Cornwall Alert



Is a two-way community messaging system covering Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly that helps us to connect with our communities. It tells you what is happening in your area.

You can choose what information you receive, from whom, and when.

D&C Alert plays a significant role in our crime prevention activity. We utilise the platform to circulate key prevention messages and crime appeals. Messages will be tailored to your specific location and interests, so you can ensure the information you receive is always relevant.

To find out more, you can register for free at alerts.dc.police.uk

Your local Neighbourhood team:

Inspector Phil Gray
Sergeant Matthew Beards
PC Jaz Trudgeon
PC Katrina Catton
PCSO Darren England

How to contact us:



For questions, advice and to receive updates on crimes that have already been reported, contact us using the **webchat** function on the Devon & Cornwall Police homepage to have a conversation with a staff member at our contact centre. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



For non-emergencies, give us a call on **101**. Contact Officers are there to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please be kind and respectful to our staff; rest assured we will answer your call as soon as we are able. There are often high volumes of incoming calls, so depending on the urgency of your enquiry with us, it may be worth considering some of the other contact options available, especially if you do have access to the internet, to allow the phone lines to be more accessible to those without internet access.

Where to find us:

Honiton Police Station, 167 High St, EX14 1LQ

Please note: We are presently not a station open to members of the public without a prior appointment.

Please find your nearest open Police Enquiry Office in Exeter, open Monday to Saturday 08:00 - 18:00

Devon & Cornwall Police, Exeter Police Station, Sidmouth Road, Exeter, EX2 7RY



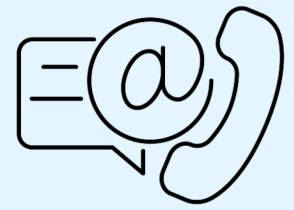
When life is threatened, people are injured, offenders are nearby, or immediate action is required, call us on **999**

- If you call us on 999 by mistake, please help us to reduce demand by staying on the line to let us know that everything is okay



To report a non-emergency crime that has already happened, go to **dc.police.uk** Here you can record all the appropriate details on the online 'report' form that can be submitted on our website. The contact centre staff will then be able to provide you with a crime reference number in due course.

Who should I contact?



Please visit www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ for more

Abnormal vehicle load: <https://www.gov.uk/esdal-abnormal-load-notification>

Animal & Wildlife crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wc/wildlife-crime/what-is-wildlife-crime/>
999 / 101

RSPCA: 0300 1234 999 (24h)

Local Council for Dog Warden: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Antisocial behaviour: E.g. nuisance noise, abandoned vehicles

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/asb/asb/antisocial-behaviour/>

<https://www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/asb/asb-v3/report-antisocial-behaviour/>

Citizen's Advice: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Local Council & Environmental Health Team: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Environment Crime:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ec/environment-crime/>

Local Council: <https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council>

Gov.uk

The Environment Agency: 0800 80 70 60 (24h)

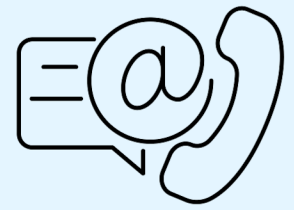
Events and Processions:

<https://www.dc.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/e/events-and-processions/>

Firearms licensing:

<https://firearms.dc.police.uk>

Who should I contact?



If you are calling us about a non-police matter, you might be stopping someone we can help getting through.

Always check our website to make sure you are contacting the right people first time: **[dc.police.uk/who-to-contact](https://www.dc.police.uk/who-to-contact)**

- Abandoned cars, untaxed cars, and anti-social parking are dealt with by local councils - please do not report this to the police unless the vehicle has been left where it presents a danger to you or to other members of the public
- Untaxed cars need to be reported to the DVLA
- Lost or found dogs should be reported to your local dog warden
- Noisy neighbours need to be reported to the council environmental health team
- After swapping insurance details, if no one is injured, there is no need to report a road traffic collision



SCAMS AND FRAUD

Now the weather is improving, it's that perfect time to get out and sort out those "odd jobs" that keep moving further and further down our to do lists. Things like sorting out the garden, trimming hedges or sorting out roof tiles can be jobs that you often want to put off. So, when someone arrives at your door offering to tidy your garden or fix up your roof, you might be inclined to let them...

Remember, if it looks or sounds too good to be true - it probably is! Earlier this year, we held the Crime & Safety Roadshow at our first location in Seaton in a bid to educate some of our less tech-savvy residents about doorstep crime and rogue traders. If you've got loved ones who live alone or who might possibly need work completing on their home, please consult a local approved tradesperson and remind them not to take business from any passing tradespeople. We would advise them to decline any such offers and to lock the door and call the police.

We've recently received information from some diligent members of the public regarding a vehicle touting for business in one of our housing estates, and this is common during the summer months. This information is really helpful and we use this to plan our patrols and detect this sort of offending. Our research has revealed that the driver of the vehicle has similar previous convictions in other areas, and as such this information will be shared with policing colleagues and Trading Standards.

For more information and to report rogue traders, please visit the local Trading Standards website at

<https://devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk>



By the Get Safe Online team

PROTECTING YOUR SMART DEVICES



For many of us, today's home is a very convenient and smart place to live, with there being more and more devices responding to a tap in an app, or the sound of your voice.

However, every device that is connected to your Wi-Fi is also transmitting data which could be of interest to criminals; not least your speakers, voice assistants, cameras, intruder alarms, door locks, and security lighting.

If you haven't set up or are not maintaining the appropriate security measures, you are putting yourself at risk for your information being stolen, or potentially having your every movement observed. It is also worth considering that the data provided by the smart devices, or the information you supply when you set them up, could be used by manufacturers for unwanted purposes, including being sold on to third parties.

For more information and expert, easy-to-follow, impartial advice on safeguarding yourself, your family, finances, devices and workplace, please visit www.getsafeonline.org

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, report it to **Action Fraud** on actionfraud.police.uk or call them on **0300 123 2040**, or call the Police on **101**



By the Get Safe Online team

PROTECTING YOUR SMART DEVICES



Top tips:

- Consider that buying products from well-known, reputable brands means that more care has probably been taken in securing the products, for your and your family's security.
- For smart devices for which you need to log in to connect, replace any factory-set passwords with secure ones you have created yourself. This is because default administrator passwords may be common to every device shipped, and potentially insecure. If in doubt, check manufacturers' instructions on how to change passwords.
- Do not use the same password for more than one connected device, nor share passwords with those you already use for other online accounts.
- Make sure your Wi-Fi network is secure.
- Make sure that all your computers and mobile devices are protected with updated internet security software/apps, and that access to these devices are safeguarded with a PIN or passcode.
- Check the apps associated with your connected devices and install updates as soon as prompted. Also, regularly check manufacturers' websites for updates, as they can be slow to push these out via the app.
- Limit the amount of information you provide when setting up an app to what is absolutely necessary.
- Be aware that devices such as voice assistants, smart speakers and cameras are always active and potentially recording unless you switch off or disable them.



RECENT HONITON WARRANT

UNDER SECTION 23 OF MISUSE OF
DRUGS ACT

Recently, officers from our Neighbourhood Policing Teams executed a warrant at a shop on New Street in Honiton. The warrant was authorised under Section 23 of Misuse of Drugs Act following concerns that were raised by the public.

This was a joint operation completed with Trading Standards, who enlisted the help of their very talented tobacco, cash, and drug dogs. During our search of the premises, a hide was discovered that had been manufactured to store counterfeit products. Illegal tobacco, cigarettes, and vapes were seized from the premises. Trading Standards will now continue their investigation into the premises and all the relevant agencies have been informed of our findings.

Intelligence is invaluable to the police, and without it we would be unable to conduct this sort of proactive work. It helps to prevent and detect crime, whilst ensuring the safeguarding and protection of our community. You may think that information will not be useful but it may be the final missing piece to the puzzle.

If you suspect illegal activity or in your area please report it via **101** online or by phone. Alternatively, you can report information anonymously to **CrimeStoppers** on **0800 555 111**.