

August 2011 news archive

Riots - message from National Neighbourhood Watch 11/8/2011

Riots: Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network official statement

10 August 2011

In the light of the recent rioting in a number of cities and urban areas across the country, please find below our official statement from NHWN about what has been taking place.

All members of Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch are appalled by the extreme criminal behaviour that has taken place throughout our towns and cities for the past four nights. There is no excuse for this criminality and I ask all members to urge their local police to take decisive action to identify and take action against the individuals concerned. However, I am also concerned that the growing trend of communities coming together to protect their property will degenerate into vigilantism whereby those involved will create a situation which places an additional drain on police resources. I would encourage all members to support the police where they can by reporting suspicious behaviour, passing information to police on criminal activity and helping wherever possible to identify thieves and burglars involved in looting and arson.

NHWN believes in creating communities where people feel safe from criminal activity and anti-social behaviour and will provide individuals with all the tools they need to develop community cohesion. For further information see www.ourwatch.org.uk or contact [Jim Maddan](#).

For more information on keeping safe during the riots, please click [here](#) or visit www.direct.gov.uk.

James Maddan

Chair, Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network (England & Wales)

Message from Chief Constable 10/8/2011

Please see below the key message from the Chief Constable regarding the recent incidents in cities across the country. If possible please pass the message out to other members of the community.

- Lancashire Constabulary absolutely condemns the criminality and violence that has been committed in London and in other cities across the UK over recent nights.
- The Chief Constable has approved the deployment of three Lancashire Public Support Units and a Public Order Commander – a total of 76 officers – in mutual aid to the Metropolitan Police Service with immediate effect (Tuesday, 9th August).
- There is no current intelligence to suggest that any incidents will occur in Lancashire but a force-wide operation is in place to ensure that the situation remains under close watch and that resources are readily available should they be needed.
- Should any kind of related incident occur in Lancashire, the Constabulary will deal with it quickly and firmly as criminality and violence of the kind seen elsewhere will not be tolerated in the county.
- The Constabulary has not cancelled all rest days or annual leave but has made a decision not to approve any new requests for the duration of the operation, which is currently indefinite.
- The Constabulary remains resilient in its capability and capacity to maintain 'business as usual' policing during this period of mutual aid.
- Should any future response require a multi-agency approach, the Constabulary will implement the usual co-ordination process.

Suspicious caller 8/8/2011

Dear all

I wanted to advise you of the following information which has been brought to my attention by a Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.

An elderly lady received a telephone call from a male called Mr Robinson purporting to be from the Nat West Bank stating they had noticed some irregularities in her account and that the bank wanted to sort them out before Monday. Although this lady is usually very observant, the male caller managed to get the elderly lady to disclose her credit card number and three digit security number on the back of the card. The elderly lady stated as this male knew so much about her, he must have been genuine.

After the call had been terminated, the lady began to have doubts and contacted the Nat West direct. The Nat West confirmed they did not have a Mr Robinson working for them. The credit card was cancelled without any loss of funds. I have also received a second call from a NHW Co-Ordinator advising of a similar incident occurring over the weekend.

JUST A WORD OF WARNING – Banks/Building Societies should **NOT** ring and ask you to disclose your bank account details under any circumstances. If you do receive any calls of this nature, terminate the call and contact your bank immediately.

NEVER disclose any personal details over the telephone to anyone.

Beverley Warburton
Crime Prevention Officer

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Trading standards warning 4/8/2011

Please see the attached file for latest information from trading standards on scam emails, cold callers and carpet cleaning equipment.

Click [HERE](#) to view and download the information.

Online survey regarding Police front counters 1/8/2011

Dear all

As you are aware the Constabulary has to make massive savings over the next 4 years. An on line survey will be available from today 1st August until 31st August regarding the front counter services for you to have your say. Please see the details below:

Online survey to give residents chance to have their say

An online survey will give Lancashire residents a chance to have their say on the future of police premises and front counter services ahead of proposed spending cuts and all officers and staff are asked to encourage members of the public to share their views.

The survey, available on www.lancashire.police.uk or www.getintheloop.co.uk, will be available from Monday 1 August and comes after the Constabulary considered a report outlining potential savings of up to £1million annually and one-off sales of over £4million.

As part of on-going work to identify savings in the region of £42 million over the next four years, the Constabulary has been reviewing the properties it uses and the front counter services it provides in some police stations.

The reviews, outline a plan to enhance the services available at the busiest stations across the county but to close a number of the front counter desks and to sell premises where there is limited demand from the public, where the public have no access, or which are unoccupied.

Residents are being invited to give their views on proposals to close some front counters, their knowledge about the ways to access the Constabulary services and their preferences for contacting the police about non emergency matters in the future.

People will also be asked about their experiences in contacting the police, their knowledge of the different ways to contact the Constabulary and where they think cuts could be made without closing some front counters and buildings.

Chief Superintendent Tim Jacques said: "We know the closure of any front counter or police building will cause concern for the public but we feel it is vital that residents are able to have their say.

"Over the coming months, we will have some tough decisions to make about the shape of local policing and the public's input into that decision making is vital. That's why we are keen for people to complete the survey.

"We are committed to working with the public to ensure that the Constabulary continues to be known as a high performing force – one that reduces and detects crime, protects people and delivers high quality services. Clearly we already have some ideas of how we might achieve that but really would welcome the views of local people before we move forward."

The Front Counters review has looked at a range of issues including opening hours, services provided to the public and working practices across the force and a number of recommendations are being made as a result of the findings.

The review has found that 81 per cent of the total footfall of visitors across the county is catered for by just 17 of the front counters. The remaining 21 are dealing with only 19 per cent of the overall footfall and were recommended for closure as part of the review. No decisions will be made until the end of the consultation process and the Constabulary has considered all feedback from the public.

The front counters that remain open will offer a standardised and consistent service to the public, unlike at present where people can potentially be sent to other police stations to access the service they need. They will not close for lunch, for training purposes or for any other reason outside of these hours so this will be a better service for the public. Mr Jacques added: "Over recent years, we have extended our reach into the community and now operate out of almost 200 different bases across the county. This means we rely less on the public coming to us. We are also looking to develop our on-line and digital services which will provide additional opportunities for the public to access services differently and this will continue as technology moves forward."

Residents will be able to give their views via the force website www.lancashire.police.uk or the Lancashire Police Authority's survey website www.getintheloop.co.uk . The survey will be available from Monday 1 August for one month until Wednesday 31 August.

Anyone who does not have access to the Internet but would like to have a say can write to their local Divisional Commander at the Divisional HQs.

Beverley Warburton
Crime Prevention Officer