

Help Sought – Distraction Burglaries



Dear Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator,

Distraction Burglaries are traditionally perpetrated against the vulnerable or elderly, and as such represent a terrible crime. A distraction burglary occurs when a trick or falsehood is used to gain entry to a home in order to steal. The offender may state they are from a utility company, a sales team, from the police or say that they have lost something, such as a ball, and offer plausible reasons as to why they would need to enter the house.

Hampshire Constabulary is working to prevent distraction burglaries and to identify and prosecute the offenders.

In order to do this we need to know more about the offenders and the vehicles they use. It is likely that the offenders, or their associates, visit the area in which they intend to commit crime to determine the addresses they wish to target. In order to help us identify offenders, we ask that you, as co-ordinators, collate information about suspicious cold callers operating in your area.

- **Have you had a cold caller attend your address who could not provide ID? Who did they claim to work for?**
- **Have you seen people paying particular attention to the addresses of elderly neighbours?**
- **What did these people look like? What were they wearing?**
- **What vehicle were they using? What was the registration number? Was there anything distinctive about it?**

We hope that by keeping such a log, should there be a distraction burglary in your area, the Investigating Officer will be able to contact you for details of unusual person and vehicle sightings. This may help us identify suspects, their movements and the vehicle they may use. If you witness an incident that requires Police attendance please use the normal methods of contact.

Please contact your local point of contact on the Neighbourhood Policing Team should you have any questions.