

I received this email from the police and thought that residents would like to see this information. Please pass this on to any neighbours or friends who do not receive our emails.

As the Community Inspector with policing responsibility for the West Neighbourhood area, I wished to provide you with an update in respect of Police activity undertaken to deter, detect and report offenders involved in housebreakings and associated crimes. I am very aware that many of you have received correspondence from concerned constituents and ask that this information be shared with your constituents in hope that it will go some distance in reassuring the Public that Housebreaking is a key priority for us and we are committing resources into dealing with same.

As you know we are experiencing an increase in housebreakings to domestic properties in the West of the city and this is something that Chief Insp. Dolan (Area Commander for West and Pentlands) and I are working hard to address. Whilst we are keen to reduce the number of housebreakings, we are conscious that these crimes have a significant impact on victims.

A large number of the break-ins take place whilst the occupiers are on holiday. Whilst the fact a property may appear unoccupied could be a factor, we are making extensive enquiries in an effort to establish if any other common factors exist. A few days ago we identified a positive line of enquiry in this regard and are hopeful this may assist us in identifying perpetrators.

Another feature of the ongoing trend is that houses are being broken into and cars (often family cars) are being stolen using the keys found within. It would not appear these types of cars are being stolen to order and/or being sold out with the area. We have traced a significant number of the cars abandoned in different parts of the city having been used in the commission of further crimes. Forensic examination of abandoned vehicles has given us opportunities to trace those involved.

We have a Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) based at Corstorphine (other such units are based elsewhere in the city) who investigate all housebreakings and they are working hard to identify the perpetrators. CI Dolan has also bolstered their existing number with an additional two officers to increase their capacity to engage with victims and pursue offenders. There is also a Sergeant and 4 officers from Operation Quarterlight (a vehicle crime initiative) who are working closely with Corstorphine CIU and other CIUs to assist them with their investigations.

To assist West and Pentlands Officers deter and detect housebreakings, we have secured the assistance of National resources, including the Police Scotland helicopter. Operation Peleton, which is a local initiative target housebreaking in the West and Pentlands area, is ongoing and there are 6 officers committed each day to conducting foot/mobile patrols both in uniform and plain clothes in areas where crimes are being committed with a view to deterring, detecting and tracing those responsible. This initiative has effectively led to the detection of several persons over recent weeks.

Analytical information has assisted in the deployment of Community Officers in areas of concern at times when crimes are most likely to occur. In addition officers have been involved in numerous road checks on key routes again deterring and tracing offenders. Community officers are monitoring the activities of known housebreakers to ensure compliance with bail curfews. Community Officers are also working with our Search and Recovery Team to recover stolen property and to identify those responsible for resetting. Again we have had some success, resulting in a number of males being charged with several housebreaking. Operation Greenbay is a joint operation between Edinburgh City and Lothian and Scottish Borders divisions in response to the number of housebreakings where vehicles are stolen and then used to commit further crimes across the policing boundaries. Operation RAC has been resurrected to assist the CIUs across Edinburgh in tracing and detaining the most prolific offenders.

Crime prevention advice has also been sent by email to Community Councils and local Councillors for distribution. Domestic Security events were held Davidson Mains Parish Church and BT Murrayfield Stadium and two further events are planned, one at the Drum Brae Hub and the other at South Queensferry. Community officers attending at Community Council meetings have been provided crime prevention advice. Community Officers have dispensed crime prevention advice at various stores across the West and Pentlands areas. Despite all our efforts, it is frustrating to report that housebreakings in West and Pentlands continue, although over this last week or so, we have seen a decline in housebreakings, however we will continue to work hard and are committing as many resources as we can to tackling housebreakings .

Please do not hesitate to contact me, if I you have any questions.

Kind regards

Annicea

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