

A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News

Lothian and Borders
POLICE



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'Working in Partnership for a Safer City'

IMITATION GUNS INCLUDING BB GUNS

CITY
WIDE

In the light of recent tragic events in Liverpool where Rhys Jones was killed by a gun, messages in relation to firearms, imitation or otherwise, seem ever more pertinent than ever. I would like to take this opportunity to warn people about the dangers of carrying imitation guns in public.

Since April 2004 it has been illegal to carry an imitation gun in public and police have been making the consequences clear.

Trained police officers have great difficulty distinguishing these guns from actual firearms and have to act as if they are real. There is a real risk of someone being shot by armed response officers who are unable to establish the exact nature of the weapon. The fear felt by members of the public on being confronted with an imitation gun can be just as great. Valuable time and resources are being used up when armed response teams have to be sent to incidents involving fake guns.

I want to ask parents to support the police by making their children aware of the consequences of having such a weapon in their possession.

Divisional Commander – Chief Superintendent George Simpson

SAFE USE OF AN ATM

The overwhelming majority of cash machine withdrawals take place crime free, but cardholders still need to be aware of the common sense steps to take when using a cash machine.

Top tips: How cardholders can prevent themselves becoming a victim of crime when withdrawing money from a cash machine

TOP
TIPS

1. Choosing a Cash Machine

Put your personal safety first. Be aware of others around you. If someone close to the cash machine is behaving suspiciously or makes you feel uncomfortable choose another. If there is anything unusual about the cash machine, or there are signs of tampering, do not use the machine and report it to the bank immediately. If you suspect that a skimming device has been attached to a cash machine, inform staff within the bank or, if this is not possible, inform the police. Put your personal safety first and do not attempt to remove it yourself.

2. Using a cash machine

Be aware of your surroundings. If someone is crowding or watching you, cancel the transaction and go to another machine. Do not accept help from seemingly well-meaning strangers and never allow yourself to be distracted. Stand close to the cash machine and always shield the keypad to avoid anyone seeing you enter your PIN.

3. Leaving a cash machine

Once you have completed a transaction, discreetly put your money and card away before leaving the cash machine. If the cash machine does not return your card, report its loss immediately to your bank. Tear up or preferably shred your cash machine receipt, mini-statement or balance enquiry when you dispose of them.

Local News

Here are the crime figures for September in the Fairmilehead area:

There were 10 Theft of number plates , 3 from Swanston Ave, 2 from Caiyside, 1 from Swanston Way, 1 from Biggar Road, 1 from Maragret Rose Way, 1 from Buckstone Road, and 1 from Buckstone Terrace.

There were 9 Road traffic offences, 4 committed in Buckstone Howe, 3 committed in Buckstone terrace and 2 in Biggar Road. All of these were solved and the persons have been reported to the P.F.

There were 4 assaults committed, 2 in Pentland view and 1 each in Frogston Avenue and Margaret Rose Drive, 3 of which were solved and reports have been submitted.

There were 2 Breach of the peace crimes committed, both of which were solved and reports submitted.

3 cars were broken into, 2 in Queen Margaret Close and Mortonhall Golf Course carpark.

3 cars were damaged in Buckstone terrace, Caiyside Crescent and Buckstone Drive.

There has been a dramatic rise in the crimes and offences which have occurred in the area this month. A total of 31 crimes and offences have been recorded but 14 of these have been solved.

More concerning has been the dramatic rise in the theft of number plates from mainly the Swanston area.

Can I ask all persons to remain vigilant and to call if they see anybody acting suspiciously as all it requires is one call to capture the person/s responsible.

If anybody has any queries, problems or wish advise on any subject or crimes and offences raised in this letter please do not hesitate to contact myself at the station or via e-mail.

Pc 3279A Kenneth Welsh Community Beat officer.

Useful Numbers

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And Finally....

There has been a dramatic increase of the theft on number plates in the Fairmilehead beat, in August and September.

There are several different ways to secure your number plate to your vehicle and make it hard for the thief to remove it.

These are inexpensive and can be found on the internet or your local Car Accessory Shop.

Finally, if you see or hear anything suspicious please telephone the police as your call could catch who is responsible.

Inspector Sue Wilson

