

Staffordshire Smart Alert Messages

Date	Message/Incident	Details
15.05.17	Advice: Urgent - Ransomware Incident	<p>Following the ransomware cyber-attack on Friday 12 May, please find below some protection advice to keep safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install system and application updates on all devices as soon as they become available. • Install anti-virus software on all devices and keep it updated. • Create regular backups of your important files to a device (such as an external hard drive or memory stick) that isn't left connected to your computer as any malware infection could spread to that too. • Only install apps from official app stores, such as Google's Play Store, or Apple's App Store as they offer better levels of protection than some 3rd party stores. Jailbreaking, rooting, or disabling any of the default security features of your device will make it more susceptible to malware infections. <p><u>Phishing/smishing</u></p> <p>Fraudsters may exploit this high-profile incident and use it as part of phishing/smishing campaigns. We urge people to be cautious if they receive any unsolicited communications from the NHS. The protect advice for that is the following:</p> <p>An email address can be spoofed. Don't open attachments or click on the links within any unsolicited emails you receive, and never respond to emails that ask for your personal or financial details.</p> <p>The sender's name and number in a text message can be spoofed, so even if the message appears to be from an organisation you know of, you should still exercise caution, particularly if the texts are asking you to click on a link or call a number.</p> <p>Don't disclose your personal or financial details during a cold call, and remember that the police and banks will never ring you and ask you to verify your PIN, withdraw your cash, or transfer your money to another "safe" account.</p> <p>If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber-crime, please call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report it to Action Fraud at http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/</p> <p>For more information visit the force website at www.staffordshire.police.uk.</p>
17.05.17	Found Radio Controlled Drone, Lichfield	<p>Radio controlled drone found in Lichfield near to Waitrose. Have you recently been flying a drone in the area and lost it? Get in touch via 101 or email myself as it could be yours.</p>
18.05.17	Royal Support for the Police UK Memorial to be built in Staffs	<p>This week sees the national launch of the fund raising campaign for the new UK Police Memorial to recognise the courage and sacrifice of the thousands of members of the UK police service who gave their lives to serve and protect our communities. Staffordshire Police is very proud to be police force responsible ensuring the safety of the National Memorial Arboretum where the memorial will be built.</p> <p>The fund has now had Royal support with the following statement from His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge:</p> <p>"The United Kingdom is recognised around the world as the home of modern policing but, as recent events have reminded us, that rich heritage is interwoven with a history of sacrifice. More than 1,400 police officers and staff have died in the line of duty, and it is high time a Police Memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum existed to act as a focal point for remembrance and gratitude.</p> <p>"Since 2001, the National Memorial Arboretum has been a place of solemn remembrance and quiet reflection. It is therefore a fitting place in which to pay tribute to the bravery and dedication of the policemen and women</p> <p>Continued...</p>

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	<p>Royal Support for the Police UK Memorial to be built in Staffs ...Continued</p>	<p>who have given up their lives, and the commitment and courage of all those who continue to serve.</p> <p>"This campaign aims to fund a physical memorial and a digital experience, as well as a living memorial that will help to support the families of the fallen. The money committed so far by the Government, as well as Chief Constables, Police and Crime Commissioners, staff associations and companies and business is testament to the significance of this project, and I have no doubt that people across the UK will be eager to raise the rest of the funds needed.</p> <p>"I am delighted to lend my support to this campaign to raise funds to honour the memory of the hundreds of fallen officers by erecting a UK Police Memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum."</p> <p>Find out more by visiting www.staffordshire.police.uk/ukmemorial where there is a video showing the plans and location.</p>
19.05.17	<p>Alert: Set-Top Box Fraud Alert</p>	<p>We have been aware of a new fraudulent trend that may impact the general public in relation to set-top boxes infected with malware intended to steal user's details to commit fraud.</p> <p>Safeguarding the public from illegal streaming services via set-top boxes is vital to the UK economy, the Creative Industry and the many people employed in the industry. There are 'set-top' boxes imported from various foreign jurisdictions that are enabled so people can view illegal content.</p> <p>We are aware that set-top boxes, although perfectly legal in their own right, are repeatedly adapted by criminals to unlawfully receive TV channels protected by intellectual laws.</p> <p>The set-top boxes can come with many common features the person purchasing may be unaware of, such as sites offering access to copyright infringing material and access to illegal sites. The set-top boxes may also contain infected malware that is disguised as something as innocent as a play button and is unknowingly initiated by the user; potentially impacting other electronic devices. The users will normally have used some personal details when setting up the set-top box, which could be used to defraud them. Consequently, what may appear to be a bargain for the consumer may quickly turn into a genuine problem by loss of personal data and or money.</p> <p>Our advice would be to only purchase set-top/streaming boxes from recognised outlets. Contact your bank if you notice any suspicious transactions on your accounts. When signing up to websites/internet services, use a password or PIN you have not used elsewhere.</p>
19.05.17	<p>Wedding Services Fraud</p> <p>Continued...</p>	<p>With the upcoming "Wedding Season", and for those individuals who are considering making plans for next year and beyond, you should be aware of the potential risks of fraud involved.</p> <p>With wedding costs running into the thousands and involving multiple vendors, by following the prevention advice below could minimise the likelihood of fraud.</p> <p>Paying by Credit Card will provide you with protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act, for purchases above £100 and below £30,000. This means that even if a Company goes into liquidation, you could claim a refund through your Credit Card Company.</p> <p>Social Media - Some Companies run their businesses entirely via social media sites. Whilst many are genuine, some may not be insured or may even be fraudulent. There are a few things you can do to protect yourself;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ensure you obtain a physical address and contact details for the vendor and verify this information. Should you experience any problems, you will then be able to make a complaint to Trading Standards or consider pursuing via the Small Claims Court.

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	<p>Wedding Services Fraud ...Continued</p>	<p>•Ensure you obtain a contract before paying money for services. Make certain you fully read and understand what you are signing and note the terms of cancellation. Consider purchasing Wedding Insurance - this can protect you from events that would not be covered under the Consumer Credit Act. Complete research on each vendor, ensuring you are dealing with a bona fide person or company. Explore the internet for reviews and ratings. You should do this even if using companies recommended by a trustworthy friend or source. For services such as wedding photographers, beware of websites using fake images. Meet the photographer in person and ask to view sample albums.</p>
24.05.17	<p>Microsoft Tech-support Fraudsters</p>	<p>Action Fraud has received the first reports of Tech-Support fraudsters claiming to be from Microsoft who are taking advantage of the global WannaCry ransomware attack. One victim fell for the scam after calling a 'help' number advertised on a pop up window. The window which wouldn't close said the victim had been affected by WannaCry Ransomware. The victim granted the fraudsters remote access to their PC after being convinced there wasn't sufficient anti-virus protection. The fraudsters then installed Windows Malicious Software Removal Tool, which is actually free, and took £320 as payment. It is important to remember that Microsoft's error and warning messages on your PC will never include a phone number. Additionally, Microsoft will never proactively reach out to you to provide unsolicited PC or technical support. Any communication they have with you must be initiated by you. How to protect yourself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't call numbers from pop-up messages. • Never allow remote access to your computer. • Always be wary of unsolicited calls. If you're unsure of a caller's identity, hang up. • Never divulge passwords or pin numbers. • Microsoft or someone on their behalf will never call you. <p>If you believe you have already been a victim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get your computer checked for any additional programmes or software that may have been installed. • Contact your bank to stop any further payments being taken.
24.05.17	<p>Security level raised to Critical: Keeping our communities safe and reassured</p> <p>Continued...</p>	<p>Following the announcement last night (Tuesday May 23rd) by the Prime Minister Theresa May to raise the national security level to Critical, we want to reassure our communities that we are working hard to keep you safe. Moving to the Critical level means we will be increasing our presence of both armed and unarmed police officers at popular locations including tourist spots, transport hubs and busy town centres across Staffordshire. We will also be reviewing key events over the coming days and weeks and providing security advice where practical. These are precautionary measures that aim to keep you feeling safe and reassured whilst not affecting your daily life. Chief Constable Jane Sawyers said: "We continue to work closely with our Regional Counter Terrorism Unit and the National Security Service to do everything possible to prevent further attacks. "At this time we continue to ask the public to remain calm but alert. If you see anything that causes you concern, then let us know immediately. I'm sure you can appreciate it is an extremely busy time for our control</p>

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	Security level raised to Critical ...Continued	room, so please remember to focus reports on anything genuinely suspicious. If you see or hear anything that you think could be terrorist-related, trust your instinct no matter how small, then ACT and call 0800 789 321 or 999 in an emergency."
25.05.17	Burglary in your area	Can I make you aware of a burglary that has happened in you're area . Today between 9 30 am and 17 00 hrs a house on Chapel Street has been broken into and after a search of the property they have stolen a BMW that was on their drive . Have you seen anything or anyone acting suspicious in the area that could help ?, if you can would you please contact us on 101 quoting the reference number 659
01.06.17	Road safety reminder for young cyclists	<p>As summer approaches and more people are out on the roads, we're issuing a timely reminder to cyclists on how to stay safe and cycle responsibly.</p> <p>We've received a number of calls from parents and local residents recently regarding large groups of young cyclists riding their bikes in an anti-social manner on pavements and highways, and engaging in dangerous activities.</p> <p>PCSO Jordan Hayes, who polices the Wilnecote and Trinity area of Tamworth, said, "We don't want to discourage young people from riding their bikes, but we do want to make parents aware of the dangers of such reckless activities and to ensure the safety of their children and other road users.</p> <p>"As a cyclist, you still need to follow the Highway Code including observing 'stop' and 'give way' signs and traffic lights and remembering to wear the appropriate protective and reflective biking gear. But ultimately, ride positively, be sensible and stay safe."</p>
02.06.17	Advice: Be Aware - Bogus Officials	<p>We are urging residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, to be on their guard following an increase in the number of bogus officials and distraction burglaries being reported across the County.</p> <p>We are reminding residents to never allow any unsolicited visitors into their home, however convincing they may sound. Always check the identity of callers first and, if you are unsure, or suspicious about their intent, please contact us immediately on 999.</p> <p>Also known as distraction burglars, bogus callers trick their way into people's homes to steal money and valuables. They make themselves seem genuine and plausible while your attention is elsewhere.</p> <p>Examples of this would include bogus officials, people claiming to come from the council, water-board or tradesmen/workmen claiming that the property or garden needs essential/urgent maintenance.</p> <p>They often work in pairs; one to keep you talking at the front door while the other tries to access your house from a back door or window. Some might even plead for help, such as asking for a glass of water.</p> <p>Remember - it's your home and you can say 'no' and ask them to leave.</p> <p>These types of criminals often target the elderly and vulnerable so we ask that you also remind your relatives, friends and neighbours of the need to be wary of these types of callers.</p> <p>We take this type of crime very seriously and are working hard to catch these criminals, which is why it is important that anyone with any information is asked to contact us on 101.</p> <p>Further information support and guidance can be found on our website https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/article/2321/Bogus-Officials</p>

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02.06.17	Sales Calls about Home Security Systems	<p>We have been contacted by a resident who was looking to upgrade their current home security system. The residents had received a couple of cold calls from a company offering their services and arranged a home visit. During this visit the residents have been pursued to sign a 5 year contract with this company. The company has made lots of promises during this visit which has helped the resident to agree. Since the visit the resident has had time to think and research some of the claims made which have turned out to be false.</p> <p>If you are looking at investing in or upgrading your home security we would urge you to do your research before inviting anyone to your house. Once you know the type of system you are looking for please get several quotes and never feel pressured in signing any contract.</p>
06.06.17	News: Motorcyclist doing wheelies on M6 to appear in court	<p>A motorcyclist has been reported for summons to appear at court after being stopped for dangerous riding on the M6 in Staffordshire.</p> <p>An officer from the Central Motorway Police Group (CMPG) was on routine patrol on Saturday afternoon (June 3) when he came across the rider travelling northbound on the M6 at around 2pm.</p> <p>The rider was seen doing wheelies, taking a selfie and ultimately riding his Yamaha R6 in a dangerous manner. He was also travelling above the speed limit at times.</p> <p>He was pulled over at Yarnfield, between junctions 14 and 15.</p> <p>The 27-year-old man, from Harlow in Essex, has been reported for summons for several road traffic offences and will appear at court at a later date.</p> <p>Video footage of him, captured by police vehicles, will be played for the magistrate at court.</p> <p>Acting Sgt Steve Millward, from Central Motorway Police Group, said: "This kind of behaviour on our motorways will simply not be tolerated. It is dangerous.</p> <p>"We are committed to keeping all road users safe and will continue to take action against those who disregard the law.</p> <p>"This rider will now face a magistrate to explain his behaviour."</p>
06.06.17	News: Thousands of people turn out for Force Open Day Continued...	<p>Over 10,000 members of the Staffordshire public turned out for our annual Open Day, (Sunday June 4), which was hailed a fantastic success.</p> <p>The event, in which we opened the doors to our headquarters, showcased the work of not only all sections of policing, but other emergency services.</p> <p>Despite the cooler weather, the support from members of the public was phenomenal. They saw our dogs agility tested and tracking down and detaining suspects and watched our officers in riot gear tackling a public disorder situation. There were practical demonstrations of how all three emergency services work together to deal with serious road traffic collisions, the different methods used to force entry into an address when it is lawful to do so and how we use dogs to sniff out drugs, guns and cash in vehicles. Those looking for more of a thrill also got to enjoy our hugely popular fast pursuit rides – people of all ages were strapped into a police car and driven around a track at fast speeds to replicate the experience of responding to an emergency.</p> <p>There were lots for the children too with inflatable slides, bouncy castles, acrobatic dance displays, face-painting, lots of tasty food options available for lunch and gallons of ice-cream.</p>

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	<p>News: Thousands of people turn out for Force Open Day ...Continued</p>	<p>Chief Constable Jane Sawyers said: "It was an absolute pleasure to welcome so many members of the public from Staffordshire and further afield into our headquarters, to showcase the work we do to keep them safe and reassured."</p> <p>"At a time when policing is being significantly tested, it was a great opportunity for our residents to meet the team and see the work that takes place daily. Yesterday many members of the public thanked not only me, but my officers and staff for the work they do to protect our communities. I have never been more proud. Thank you to everyone who attended and shared pictures and comments this was a great ending to my last few weeks at Staffordshire Police."</p>
08.06.17	<p>Alert: Car Key Burglaries</p>	<p>We are reminding residents to be on their guard and to review home and vehicle security following an increase in the number of burglaries where offenders have targeted the property with a view to stealing the keys and vehicle at the property.</p> <p>We would urge residents to ensure their property is secure at all times, including all doors and windows and that items of value and keys are stored away out of view.</p> <p>Offenders often target properties with high value/high performance vehicles on the driveway however this is not always the case! If keys are visible through windows and doors then offenders will break in; take the keys and make off in the vehicle.</p> <p>Let's not make it easy for them! If you have any information which could assist us with our enquiries, please contact us on 101 or anonymously via crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.</p>
09.06.17	<p>Staying safe in Staffordshire this weekend</p>	<p>As we head into the weekend across Staffordshire we wanted to remind our residents to stay alert and vigilant, a week on from the terror attacks in London.</p> <p>While there is no specific intelligence of any threat in Staffordshire, it is imperative our communities stay alert and report any suspicious activity to us.</p> <p>There are, and will continue to be more officers on the streets, in town centres, crowded places and those areas of significance. You do not need to be alarmed by this, these measures are in place across the country to provide reassurance to our communities in light of the recent attacks.</p> <p>Assistant Chief Constable Nick Adderley said: "The last few weeks have been a very testing time for policing and worrying for many of our communities. However I am immensely proud of the work our officers have done in neighbourhoods to keep people safe and reassured.</p> <p>"In Staffordshire we will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to promote community engagement and an inclusive society on all levels. Developing positive role models is essential. We have a huge part to play in this and are a key enabler in making much of this happen.</p> <p>"You will continue to see more police officers and Police Community Support Officers on our streets, they are there to keep you safe. If you see them please engage with them and raise any concerns that you may have.</p> <p>"We have been overwhelmed with support from the general public, hearing your stories and seeing your pictures. Please keep them coming in and remember, if you see or hear anything that you think could be terrorist-related, trust your instinct no matter how small, then ACT and call 999."</p> <p>For more information about ACT visit www.act.campaign.gov.uk</p>