

## Staffordshire Smart Alert Messages

Date	Message/Incident	Details
21.2.17	<b>Be aware of telephone PPI scam</b>	<p>We are reminding residents not to share bank or personal information to telephone callers after householder in Stafford was targeted yesterday. An unknown caller phoned a residents landline phone number and told the householder they had won a PPI claim. The householder was then asked to go to the local Spar shop and buy £200 of pay save cards to pay a government fee, which would then be collected by a courier in exchange for a cheque in settlement of the PPI claim. The suspect telephoned back asking if the cards had been purchased, then asked for the numbers on the cards. Clearly, the suspects had no intention of sending a courier with a cheque. If you receive one of these calls end it immediately.</p>
27.2.17	<b>Alert: University Spear-Phishing Alert from City of London Police</b>	<p>Fraudsters are sending out a high number of phishing emails to university email addresses claiming to be from their own HR department. These email addresses are either spoofed or in some cases using compromised university email accounts. The email claims that the recipient is entitled to a pay rise from their department and to click on a link to claim the pay rise.</p> <p>This link then takes you to a spoofed university website telling you to enter to your personal details (including university login details and financial information). These financial details can then be used by criminals, and the login details are usually passed around and sold for future fraud campaigns.</p> <p>It is advisable that all universities prompt all staff and students change any password associated with their university email/IT accounts. Due to potential data breaches, it is recommended that universities discuss with the IT departments about issuing a mandatory password reset for all users.</p> <p>Remember: Don't click on links or open any attachments you receive in unsolicited emails or SMS messages. Remember that fraudsters can 'spoof' an email address to make it look like one used by someone you trust. If you are unsure, check the email header to identify the true source of communication. Information on how to locate email headers can be found at <a href="https://mxtoolbox.com/Public/Content/EmailHeaders/">https://mxtoolbox.com/Public/Content/EmailHeaders/</a></p> <p>Use strong passwords which include a mixture of letters, numbers and special characters, and include both upper and lower case characters. Use random words as opposed to passwords with personal meanings. Always install software updates as they will often include fixes for critical security vulnerabilities. If you think your bank details have been compromised, you should immediately contact your bank. If you have been affected by this, or any other fraud, report it to Action Fraud by calling 0300 123 2040, or visiting <a href="http://www.actionfraud.police.uk">www.actionfraud.police.uk</a>.</p>
7.3.17	<b>Advice: Keeping Your Property Safe and Secure</b>	<p>We are appealing to residents and homeowners in the remote areas of Staffordshire, to be vigilant and property safe.</p> <p>It follows a number of burglaries in the Alrewas area and across the south of the County. During these incidents items including jewellery and keys to high value motor vehicles have been targeted by the thieves who have entered properties. The thieves are then stealing the vehicles parked at the properties using the keys.</p> <p>Temporary Inspector, Jo Rea from our Lichfield local policing team said: "I would like to remind residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity in the area.</p> <p>"We are working to ensure that you feel safe, and have increased patrols to ensure we catch those responsible for these crimes.</p> <p>"I would urge you to not only report suspicious activity but to check your home is safe and secure at all times. Following our crime prevention advice can always help reduce the chances of being a victim of crime."</p>

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		<p>Top tips for keeping your home safe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always keep house and car keys away from doors and windows. Store valuables and keys away out of view.</li> <li>• Always keep your windows and doors locked even when you are in – if you pop upstairs or in the garden make sure the room you are not in is secure.</li> <li>• Consider installing movement activated security lights at the front and back of your property or an alarm/CCTV system. If you have these already installed, ensure they are in good working order and are switched on.</li> <li>• If you have valuable tools and garden equipment in your garage or shed, make sure you keep it locked and fit an inaccessible bolt/lock to your garden gate. Consider fitting locking devices to high value bicycles.</li> <li>• Try to avoid storing large bulky items, like wheelie bins, near to your property as these can be used to access properties.</li> </ul> <p>If you see anything suspicious please call 101, or 999 in an emergency.</p>
9.3.17	<p><b>Alert: Distraction Burglary in Lichfield Road, Hopwas</b> Anyone with any information on this incident, is asked to contact Staffordshire Police on 101, quoting the incident number 780 of 8 March.</p>	<p>Local officers are urging residents to be on their guard following a distraction burglary in Lichfield Road, Hopwas. Residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, are being reminded to ensure their properties are secure at all times and to not allow any unsolicited visitors into their home.</p> <p>The incident took place at around 2:30pm on Wednesday 8 March when an unknown offender called out to an elderly resident inside his property.</p> <p>The resident was upstairs at the time and met the offender on the stairs. The resident escorted the offender back outside the property where he then offered to sell him some cigarettes.</p> <p>The resident refused to purchase the cigarettes and the offender then asked if he could use the toilet. The resident agreed, and the offender re-entered the property to later leave a few moments later via the rear door, heading along the canal towpath towards a public house.</p> <p>The resident's wallet, containing cash and bank cards was later discovered missing.</p> <p>The offender was male and is described as white, in his 40's around 6'9" and of stocky build. He had short dark hair and was clean shaven. He was described as smartly dressed wearing dark clothing.</p>
9.3.17	<p><b>Reminder: Feedback on Policing Priorities for Staffordshire</b></p>	<p>This is an opportunity to influence policing priorities for Staffordshire. Thank you to those who have already contributed. If you have not yet given feedback on the proposed priorities for policing, please take a few minutes to take part as follows:</p> <p><i>In May 2016 Staffordshire's Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis (PCC) was elected for a second term. The PCC would be grateful for your views on the policing priorities in his refreshed 'Safer, Fairer, United Communities' strategy. It is quick and easy to do. Simply click on the link below to record your views. It should only take a few minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you in anticipation for your help and support. These priorities will be a key influence on policing in Staffordshire so it is important that residents have their say.</i></p> <p><a href="#">Smart Alert - Safer, Fairer, United Communities Consultation</a></p>