



Avon and Somerset Police
NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Your local area update.

Williton Police Station

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

November / 2023

Would like to give a warm welcome to the new PCSO joining the team who will be covering the Williton and Watchet area.

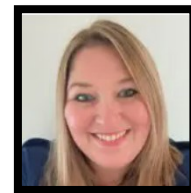
Zach is currently completing his tutorship but feel free to say hello to him when you see him out and about.



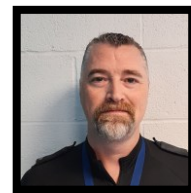
Meet the team.



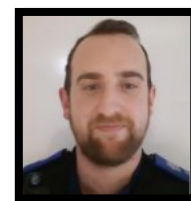
Neighbourhood
Sergeant
Hayden Smith
267



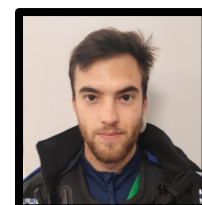
PCSO Supervisor
Katherine Williams
8460



Neighbourhood
Constable
Ben Hicks 2647



Neighbourhood
PCSO
Zack Howe 6551



Neighbourhood
PCSO
Zach Marlow 8076

Remembrance Service

The Neighbourhood Team attended Remembrance services in Williton and Watchet



Rural Thefts

There have been a few reports of theft of machinery in the local area over the last month, please ensure that your equipment is locked away and marked, we recommend taking photographs of machinery and to write down the serial number of these items and to record any distinctive marks on the equipment.

LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Keep an eye out on our social media page for any events like bike marking or community events we attend!



West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing

Page · Law enforcement agency

5.6K likes · 6.9K followers

Welcome to the West Somerset and Taunton Neighbourhood Policing Facebook page.

Not Monitored 24/7

Contact Us

Like

...

Reporting crimes

There have been plenty of posts on Facebook of people reporting crimes and suspicious activity.

To report a crime please use the proper means, if it is an emergency, please call 999, if a non-emergency please call 101 or report online to

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>

What constitutes and Emergency?

- Think, does this need police attendance NOW?
- Is the offender on scene?
- Is there an immediate need to safeguard someone?
- Will evidence be lost immediately if police do not attend?
- Is there an inherent danger to the public?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, please use 101 or online reporting system.

Crime statistics for October 2023

Arson & criminal damage x 16

Public Order Offences x 17

Sexual Offences x 2

Theft x 6

Burglary x 2

Violence against the person x 19

Vehicle Offences x 5

LOCAL PRIORITIES

Keep up to date



Facebook is a great way to keep up to date with your local Neighbourhood Policing team. Follow us on:

Facebook: Minehead and West Somerset Neighbourhood Policing

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

Community Speedwatch

If you would like to be a participant and volunteer for such a scheme, contact the local Beat Team and we will support you in setting this up. If you are interested in becoming involved, either contact your local Parish Council, or the Neighbourhood team, & we will forward your details.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour in rural areas with reports of Illegal Poaching and Conflict around the Hunt Season.

We currently liaise with the rural affairs team and target the areas known.

For individuals who we establish are involved we offer words of advice, issue ASB warning letters or look at more serious consequences based on the severity of their actions.

Get in touch.

In an emergency always call 999

For non-emergency matters call us on 101 or report online via www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

To report a crime anonymously, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Celebrity Scams

Avon and Somerset Police are seeing an increase in cases where victims are being approached by supposed “celebrities”. This type of fraud often has romantic element, where it can look very similar to a typical romance fraud, but not always.

How do they start?

The victim will usually comment on a post on the verified social media page of the celebrity, or a fan page. They may instead comment on a YouTube video of them. Fraudsters create a fake profile of the celebrity, taking photographs from the internet, just as I have done with this photo of Tom Cruise. They then trawl the verified social media pages looking for their fans. They will then make contact with the commenter using the fake profile. They will initiate conversation saying something like, “Thank you for your kind comment on my page – it’s nice to have a fan. Maybe we could talk some more on this private account”. They explain that their verified profiles are managed by their management company, and they have no control over them.

How do they progress?

Like in romance frauds, the fraudster will present as extremely caring, making the victim feel like the only person in the world and contacting them every day. They will often suggest that they would like to start a relationship with the victim, insisting that they can trust each other. If the celebrity has a partner, they will claim to be unhappy or separated, and that everything the media present is fictitious. They often confide in the victim regarding how miserable they are and how their management company are “Controlling” and that they need to “Break free” from them. They then suggest that they need the victim’s help with this and that they want to meet the victim.

The money requests...

This is where the fraudster starts making arrangements for the meeting. However, they say that they will need some special VIP card or to pay for a meet and greet. At this stage, the victim will often be put in touch with their “management company” to arrange the meeting. Many issues will start to arise with the meeting, requiring more money or gift cards from the victim. The meeting will keep getting pushed forward with numerous excuses being made. In reality, the victim was never going to meet the celebrity, as they have never really spoken to them. The “celebrity”, the “management company”, and any other characters the fraudster has introduced, are just the same criminal.

Advice

- Think before sending money to people you have only ever communicated with online.
- Gift cards are not a legitimate form of payment but are very desirable to fraudsters – if you are asked to purchase gift cards, it’s a fraud.
- Verify the person you are communicating with is who they say they are – does the profile have a blue tick next to their name to show that they are verified? Was the profile created very recently, as this is indicative of a fraudulent profile?
- Talk about it with someone you trust and get a second opinion.
- Fraudsters will exploit people for their money and portray themselves in a different light to gain your trust and ultimately obtain money from you.
- Remember – a genuine relationship/friendship should never involve you having to send money.