



**Keeping our communities
safe and reassured**



DOOR TO DOOR SELLERS SUSPECTED OF BEING LINKED TO BURGLARIES

Police across Staffordshire are urging all residents to call 101 to report suspicious visitors to their homes following a handful of burglaries in different areas across the county.

In the last few days there have been five burglaries in different areas across the county, where in the preceding days residents have reported being visited by door-to-door sellers or where other suspicious incidents have been reported.

Detectives have issued the warning to residents in a bid to prompt them to report suspicious activity. The recent incidents happened in the daytime and items stolen include small portable valuables such as jewellery and laptops.

Police are reminding residents to be vigilant, keep their homes secure at all times and report suspicious activity immediately.

Whilst the recent offences can't be formally linked directly to each other or the doorstep traders, detectives are keen to locate the traders to identify them about their work and the locations they have visited.

Residents can follow the below crime prevention advice to keep burglars at bay:

- secure passageways and side entrances, make sure sheds and garages are fitted with proper security locks, and put tools away so they can't be used to break in to your home
- if you have to leave ladders outside, make sure they're on their side and securely fixed to a wall or permanent fixture
- keep wheelie bins secure and away from your property to stop thieves using them to get through first floor windows, or setting fire to them
- when darkness falls close curtains and blinds to stop would-be intruders window shopping
- mark items with your postcode and house number using an 'invisible' pen available from DIY stores. This makes stolen property easier to identify
- ensure valuable items, including Christmas presents and cards containing cash gifts, are not left in plain view and keep them away from windows and doors

- fit mortise locks to all front and back doors and locks to windows that are in easy reach
- keep house and car keys safe and away from doors, windows and letterboxes – NEVER leave your car running while it's defrosting
- keep garages and sheds secure
- fit low cost security lighting as a deterrent.

For further information, visit the 'advice zone' section of Staffordshire Police's website www.staffordshire.police.uk, or ring the non emergency number 101.

To report a crime in progress dial 999. To report a crime anonymously ring the independent charity CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.