

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

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# CRIME PREVENTION

AND ADVICE TOOLKIT



**NORTHUMBRIA  
POLICE**  
*Proud to Protect*



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## Our Vision

“Northumbria Police will be outstanding in the service we provide.”

This vision is supported by our mission to service the communities of Northumbria with pride – proud of what we do and proud of who we are. Simple, we are Proud to Protect.

Northumbria Police has recently set out its strategy and priorities for what it hopes to achieve by 2025 in order to tackle crime and ensure vulnerable victims are protected and supported.

In our continued efforts to provide an outstanding service Northumbria Police has produced this Crime Prevention Toolkit to provide information to raise awareness and offer tips on how to protect and safeguard against crime.

For any further crime prevention information look at our Northumbria Police website - [beta.northumbria.police.uk](https://beta.northumbria.police.uk).



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# GUIDANCE AROUND REPORTING CRIMES, INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE:

The general rule of thumb is to focus on What, When, Where, How, Why and Who.

Remember, the more detail you obtain for your report will assist officers in conducting a more effective investigation.

## People:

- Name, age, sex, colour, height, build, hair colour/style, accent, spoken words, identifiable characteristics (tattoos, scars, birthmarks etc.), clothing including footwear/headwear, was the person carrying anything, or in company with anyone else.

## Vehicles:

- Registration (VRM), make, model, colour, location/direction of travel, number of occupants, identifiable characteristics.

## Location:

- Where did it happen, identifiable landmarks, direction of travel

## Property:

- Detailed Description, identifiable marks, serial numbers, photographs

## General:

- How do you know the information,
- What did you see
- What were you told about
- Is it a Rumour
- When did you see or hear this.
- Does anyone else know this and if so provide their name(s)
- Would anyone be at risk of harm if this information was acted on.
- Is the information believed to be correct.

## Where to Report:

- Call **999** emergency, **101** non-emergency
- Report on Northumbria Police website: [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)
- Report anonymously via: Crime Stoppers **0800 555 111**
- Consider Action Fraud **0300 123 2040**

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# THE 10 PRINCIPLES OF CRIME PREVENTION

## 1

### Target hardening

Making your property harder for an offender to access.

- Upgrading the locks on your doors, windows sheds and outbuildings.
- Fitting sash jammers to vulnerable doors and windows.
- Using secure passwords to prevent criminals hacking your online accounts.

### Target removal

Ensuring that a potential target is out of view.

- Not leaving items on view through your windows - i.e. laptops, phones, keys, bags.
- Putting your vehicle in the garage if you have one and not leaving valuables on display.
- Being cautious about what you post online as it may be used to identify or locate you offline.

### Reducing the means

Removing items that may help commit an offence.

- Not leaving tools and ladders in the garden and clearing up any rubble/bricks.
- Keeping wheelie bins out of reach, as they may be a climbing aid or help transport items.
- Making sure that bricks and rubble are cleared up.

### Reducing the payoff

Reducing the profit the criminal can make from the offence.

- Security marking the property.
- Marking your property in such a way that others will not want to buy from the thief.
- Not buying property you believe or suspect to be stolen.

## 5 Access control

Looking at measures that will control access to a location, a person or object.

- Locking your doors and windows to both your house and your vehicle.
- Ensuring that fencing, hedges, walls and other boundary treatments are in a good state of repair.
- Putting a security system in place at a commercial site (entry barriers, security guards, ID cards).

## 6 Surveillance

Improving surveillance around homes, businesses or public places to deter criminals.

- Removing high hedges/fences at the front of your home that allows an offender to work unseen.
- Consider adding CCTV to a commercial site or public place.
- Establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in your street.

## 7 Environmental change

Ensuring your property and wider community looks cared about.

- Ensuring that graffiti and domestic/commercial waste is cleared up.
- Reporting issues with fly-tipping or broken street lights to the relevant authority.
- Working with the police and local authority to close a footpath.

## 8 Rule setting

Changing our habits by setting rules and positioning signage in appropriate locations.

- Introducing a rule that the last person entering/leaving should lock the door and remove the keys.
- Informing visitors to commercial sites that they must report to reception on arrival.
- Informing users that a particular site is closed between certain times and should not be accessed.

## 9 Increase the chances of being caught

Increasing the likelihood that an offender will be caught to prevent crime occurring.

- Making sure dusk to dawn security lighting is in place and in working order.
- Using good quality CCTV and/or alarm systems, especially on commercial sites and public places.
- Upgrading security to delay an offender, meaning they have to spend more time to gain access.

## 10 Deflecting offenders

Deterring an offender or deflecting their intention.

- Using timer switches to make homes look occupied if vacant after the hours of darkness.
- Running youth diversionary schemes with partner agencies.
- Never feel obligated or pressured by unknown callers. Politely decline and end the conversation.

# USEFUL CRIME PREVENTION WEBSITES

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## [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

is a free national property register

## [www.cesarscheme.org](http://www.cesarscheme.org)

is a state of the art identification technology with an accredited database for police enquiries. Plant and farming equipment.

## [www.ter-europe.org](http://www.ter-europe.org)

National Plant & Equipment Register, allows 5 free items

## **DVLA**

offers an “off-road register” for off road quad bikes. No costs involved

## [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

## [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

Crime prevention Guidance to improve security of buildings

## [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com)

Approved Crime prevention security products

## [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)





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## DOORSTEP CRIME

Doorstep Criminals are people who use distraction techniques to preoccupy a victim and steal from their home. This could be someone asking to use the bathroom, telephone or for a drink of water.

Often termed as 'bogus callers' or 'rogue traders', they may also pretend to be a utility worker or tradesperson to gain access to a property and offer to carry out maintenance work for an over inflated price, which is substandard or not carried out at all.

These criminals can target properties in villages and rural areas as well as the larger centres of population in cities and towns.

### Follow these simple steps to keep yourself safe:

- Keep front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar – and use it.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Always ask for identification badges of anyone you answer the door to, but don't rely on them. ID's can be faked.
- If you don't know the person who is calling, and you're not expecting them, don't let them in.
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- Look out for those in your community, and report any suspicious activity immediately to Northumbria Police on 101, Northumbria Police Website [www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk) or your local authority Trading Standards.
- If the person refuses to leave your door, or you feel threatened or scared - **Call 999 and ask for the police.**

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# CYBER CRIME GUIDANCE

The effect of cybercrime can be extremely upsetting for victims, and not necessarily just for financial reasons.

Victims may feel that their privacy has been violated, and that they are powerless. Unfortunately, as the UK's reliance on technology grows, the cost and incidence of cybercrime is expected to increase.

Cybercrime consists of criminal acts that are committed online by using electronic communications networks and information systems. It can be classified in three broad definitions:

1. *Crimes specific to the Internet, such as attacks against information systems or phishing (e.g. fake bank websites to solicit passwords enabling access to victims' bank accounts).*
2. *Online fraud and forgery: Large-scale fraud can be committed online through instruments such as identity theft, phishing, spam and malicious code.*
3. *Illegal online content: including child sexual abuse material, incitement to racial hatred, incitement to terrorist acts and glorification of violence, terrorism, racism and xenophobia.*

## Typical Examples of Cyber Crime:

- Distributing viruses or posting confidential business information on the internet.
- Identity theft, where criminals use the internet to steal personal information from other users.
- Fake email, luring users to fake websites to take personal information e.g. usernames and passwords, phone numbers, credit card numbers.

## Cyber Crime Prevention Useful links

For more information on cyber crime prevention please visit the websites below:

[www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org)

[www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart](http://www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart)

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

[www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk)

# TOP TIPS

## FOR CYBER SECURITY



Choose strong passwords and keep them safe.



Protect your computer with Internet security software.



Protect your personal information. Never give out personal information to anyone.



Keep your computer current with the latest patches and updates.



Make sure your computer is configured securely.



Never open or forward chain e-mails.



Online offers that look too good to be true usually are.



Review bank and credit card statements regularly.



If something sounds too good to be true or far-fetched, be sceptical about it. Research the information to see if it's a scam.

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# PROTECTING AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Northumbria Police has made protecting vulnerable people from abuse and exploitation its number one priority, over recent years. We are one of the leading forces in the country for combating domestic violence and have developed a number of initiatives, including having independent domestic violence workers accompanying officers on patrol.

## Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a crime in which the abuser seeks power and control over their victim and can affect women, men and children. It includes any threatening or controlling behaviour such as psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse. It can affect anybody, regardless of gender, age, race, sexuality or social background. It is not acceptable in any circumstance.

If you suspect someone you know is suffering emotional or physical domestic abuse call **0800 066 5555** for independent and confidential advice.

If you are in immediate danger phone **999**.

If you're an abuser or have abused in the past and recognise you need help to change your behaviour, you can get help. To change your abusive behaviour call **0808 802 4040**.

## Clare's Law

If you're worried that your partner, or the partner of a close friend or family member, may have a history of domestic abuse, Clare's Law gives you the right to ask for this information.

To make an application please use our online domestic violence disclosure scheme form: <https://beta.northumbria.police.uk/advice-and-info/personal-safety/clare-s-law-domestic-violence-disclosure-scheme/>

## Helplines/ Partners

Victims First Northumbria: **0800 011 3116**

National Domestic Violence Helpline: **0808 2000 247**

Men's Advice Line: **0808 801 0327**

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# COUNTER TERRORISM PREVENT STRATEGY

*The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.*

## Report Suspicious Activity

If you've seen or heard something that could suggest a terrorist threat to the UK do not ignore it, report it.

## Report Online

It only takes a moment to make a report online.

In an emergency, or if you need urgent police assistance, you should always dial 999.

You can also report suspicious activity by contacting the police in confidence on 0800 789 321.

## What should I report?

Like other criminals, terrorists need to plan. They need to prepare, buy and store materials, and find ways to fund their activities. Much of this is done in view of the public.

Report any of the below activity if you believe it to be suspicious or cause threat.

## Research

- Do you know someone who travels but is vague about where they are going?
- Do you know someone with multiple passports in different names?
- Do you know someone who looks at extremist material? Or shares or creates content that glorifies terrorism?
- Have you noticed somebody promoting hateful ideas or extremist views?

## Gathering Materials

- Have you noticed someone receiving deliveries for unusual items?
- If you work in commercial vehicle hire or sales, has a sale or rental seemed unusual?
- Have you noticed someone buying large amounts of chemicals or gas cylinders for no reason?
- Have noticed someone acquiring illegal firearms?

## Storing Materials

- Have you noticed anyone storing large amounts of chemicals, fertilizers, or gas cylinders for no reason?
- Have you noticed anyone storing firearms which could be used for an attack?

## Hostile Reconnaissance

- Observation and surveillance help terrorists plan attacks. Have you noticed anyone taking photos and observing CCTV or security arrangements?

## Financing

- Cheque and credit card fraud are ways of generating cash. Have you noticed any unusual bank transactions?



## What should I do if I find terrorist or violent extremist content online?

If you see online graphic or violent extremist material or content that supports, directs or glorifies terrorism please report it using <https://act.campaign.gov.uk> anonymous online reporting form.

Terrorists use the internet to provoke individuals to carry out attacks in the UK.

One post or video has the power to influence vulnerable people and inspire extremists and terrorists. This is why it is important to tackle online terrorism.

You can help us stop terrorists' and extremists' online presence by reporting content such as:

Speeches or essays calling for racial or religious violence

- Videos of violence with messages in praise of terrorists
- Postings inciting people to commit acts of terrorism or violent extremism
- Messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious or ethnic group
- Bomb-making instructions
- Advice on how to obtain or make weapons

A specialist police team will examine the content and will work with internet companies to remove it if appropriate.

### Remember to ACT –

In an emergency call **999**

Report anonymously - <https://act.campaign.gov.uk>

Confidential Reporting on **0800 789 321**

Report Locally via **101**

Find out more information at  
[www.counterterrorism.police.uk](http://www.counterterrorism.police.uk)

Modern Day Slavery – Be aware

Report concerns via: **999/101**

[www.northumbria.police.uk](http://www.northumbria.police.uk)

**MODERN  
SLAVERY**

**MODERN  
SLAVERY  
IS CLOSER  
THAN YOU  
THINK**

**VICTIMS ARE EXPLOITED IN LABOUR,  
PROSTITUTION AND DOMESTIC WORK**

Victims of Modern Slavery are often trafficked and through fear or coercion, forced to work for little or no money. Sometimes, victims are sexually exploited or forced to commit crime.

Slavery is closer than you think. It happens all over the world including the UK.

If you are a victim or know someone who might be visit [modernslavery.co.uk](http://modernslavery.co.uk) or to seek help or report concerns call the helpline.

**0800 0121 700**

Calls are free from landlines and most mobile networks.



