

23/03/18 7164 CN201-CN217 Distraction Burglary and Rogue Traders

A resident of Bradstone Road, Winterbourne, was the victim of a distraction-type burglary between 8 and 8.15pm on Tuesday 20 March. An unknown male has called at the home, claiming to be from the Waterboard. He has then distracted the owner by running the taps and checking the stop tap in the kitchen before leaving. Unfortunately a second offender had entered the address without the owner knowing, and has stolen a safe and two lock boxes. This is the second time the resident has been a victim of distraction burglary, and these culprits could be the same offenders. If you contact the police about this incident, please quote Reference number: 5218060313

The police recommend using a chain whenever answering the door to people you don't know or aren't expecting. Remember, genuine callers expect you to check their identification before opening the door. They would never try to rush you by claiming there's an emergency, and will happily make an appointment to come back when you can have a relative or friend with you

Two Irish males have called at the home of a vulnerable person in Oaktree Crescent, Bradley Stoke, and have offered to do some guttering work. They have then demanded payment of £1,000 and followed the resident to the bank to get the cash. Fortunately the bank staff became suspicious, refused to allow the withdraw and have contacted the police. No paperwork or invoice has been provided by the suspects, but they did hand over a business card but this was taken back when the resident became suspicious.

Please be wary of all cold-callers offering to do work on your home, as they can offer over-priced or unnecessary services, or put pressure on residents to agree to the work. Traders must give you a written quote from the business address, which should include a 14-day cancellation period before the work starts. You should always use recognised companies or people who have been recommended to you by a trusted source. If you contact the police about this incident, please quote Reference number: 5218060822

If you have any information regarding these or a similar incidents, contact the Police on 101. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. Please mention that you are in Neighbourhood Watch