

Police File (01/01/2011 – 24/02/2011)

Theft of scrap metal – Fornethy House - unspecified time scale.

Deer Poaching Harran Plantation – Glen Isla.

Opportunist thefts within the division, thieves are targeting unattended and unsecured items of property lying in gardens in rural locations.

Theft of Fuel

Due to the recent price and duty increases, the severe cold spell and considering the added pressure of suppliers encountering weather related difficulties in reaching customers, it is assessed that the potential exists for an increase in the theft of either household or vehicle fuel. Indeed, in early January 2011, such a crime was reported whereby 450 litres of household fuel was stolen. Tayside Police are advising the public to ensure that their heating fuel is well secured and that any suspicious activity at or near such containers is reported to the Police on 0300 111 2222.

Proceeds of Crime Act

Tayside Police is committed to reducing the harm caused by serious and organised crime and is focused on using all legal means to Divert, Disrupt, Deter and Detect those involved such criminality. A highly effective way of disrupting criminals is to take away the profits they make. This can be in assets they have acquired- houses, cars and other goods. Police can also seize cash, over £1000, where we suspect that it is the proceeds of crime or is to be used to commit crime.

In 2010 Tayside Police has seized in excess of £210,000 cash and taken assets of over £100,000 from criminals. This includes –

In July 2010, an asset confiscation order totaling £106,000 was granted at Forfar Sheriff Court against 47 year old male from Perth.

The cash that is seized from criminals is given to a central fund and re-distributed through the Cash Back for Communities initiative. Tayside Police will continue to pro-actively use this legislation to target criminals and benefit our communities. We ask that anyone who has information that would help us target serious and organized crime to contact Tayside Police on 0300 111 2222 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Card Skimming Devices

Over recent days / weeks, crimes have been reported concerning the use of card skimming devices being placed on ATM machines in the Montrose area. These devices are sophisticated and are usually in 2 pieces stuck onto an ATM fascia. One covers the slot into which cards are inserted and “reads” the metallic strip on any card in use, and a second conceals a micro camera and records PIN numbers. Others have key pads placed over genuine machine pads which record PIN numbers.

Data is either recorded in situ, which means skimmers have to be recovered and information subsequently downloaded, however some are fitted with radio transmitters (such as Bluetooth) which send information directly to the perpetrators who record this immediately.

There is no particular method to describe a skimming device as they are made to look identical to the fascia parts of any machine onto which they are inserted.

Distraction Theft

Over recent days, reports have been received from Angus residents concerning theft of handbag from residential properties. A male has attended at the victim's door, claiming to require hot water for the radiator in his car. He then goes into the kitchen with the complainer, where he distracts the complainer while another person enters the house and takes the handbag from another room. Angus residents are reminded to remain vigilant, and report any suspicious activity to police on 0300 111 2222.

Any queries, minor complaints or general advice I can be contacted on direct dial 01575576625 or E mail a.bell@tayside.pnn.police.uk