



Your local area update.

Williton Police Station

NEWS IN YOUR AREA

July / 2024

Anti-Social Behaviour

There has been a focus on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) due to increased ASB in the area, and therefore the team have tried to increase patrols in the hotspots to deter this behaviour from occurring.

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.

If you see any anti-social behaviour, please report it to 101 or submit an online report

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

Beat Surgeries

A brief reminder that PCSO Zach Marlow 8076 holds a beat surgery in both Williton and Watchet once a month. Head on over during these events to chat about any concerns or issues you are facing.

Here are the locations and times of these meetings:
Williton - Memorial Ground Pavilion – 1100-1200hrs
Watchet – Community Library – 1300-1400hrs

Next meeting date will be 23/07/24.

These meetings take place every 4 weeks, however dependant on demand, these sessions may run short or not run at all if PCSO Zach is required elsewhere.

Meet the team.



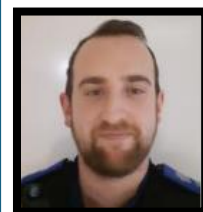
Neighbourhood
Sergeant
Hayden Smith
267



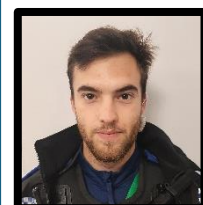
PCSO
Supervisor
Katherine
Williams
8460



Beat Manager
PC Ben Hicks
2647



PCSO
Zack Howe
6551



PCSO
Zachary
Marlow
8076



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Security Advice

Due to a spate of recent non-dwelling burglaries in the area, we are offering advice on keeping your property secure.

Non-dwelling means places that aren't lived in, such as sheds or garages.

-Ensure there is a lock on the door! Due to most burglaries being made by opportunists, this is a good way to deter these types of crimes. This also includes windows. Any unsecure door or window could be an opportunity for a burglary to occur.

-Have an alarm that must be deactivated/switched off to silence, which will make a loud enough noise to alert yourself or others in the area.

-Get CCTV and exterior lighting which can record anything that does occur, but also deters any who see it due to not wanting to be caught.

If you wish to have any home security advice, don't be afraid to get in touch with one of the neighbourhood team!

Crime Stats

These are the Crime stats for June:

Arson & criminal damage x 1

Public Order Offences x 7

Sexual Offences x 7

Theft x 8

Burglary x 2

Violence against the person x 37

Vehicle Offences x 1

Dog Offences x 1

Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society x 1



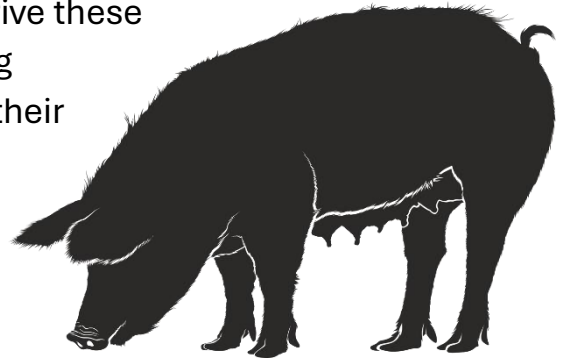
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Pig Butchering Scams

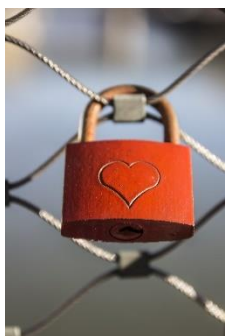
Pig butchering scams are a type of investment fraud with a romance fraud element. They are extremely sophisticated operations being perpetrated by organised crime groups overseas. They use specific scripts using social engineering to entice victims into the scam. They often use human trafficking to drive these operations, forcing people to work these scams using violence. The criminals behind these scams refer to their victims as 'pigs', the social media platforms as 'pig pens', and the scripts used as 'pig feed'. The scammers see themselves as the 'butchers', hence the term pig butchering. But how do pig butchering scams work?



Initial contact

They typically start in the same way as romance frauds, over social media or dating platforms, with fake profiles using stolen photos. Another technique is where the fraudster will message numerous numbers saying something like, "Hi Sarah, it was lovely to see you last week. We should do it again sometime". If the receiver of the message responds telling them they have the wrong number, the fraudster will attempt to strike up a conversation and make them think they are hitting it off. Criminals call this 'pig hunting'.

Building trust



However the contact is made, the fraudster will spend time getting to know the victim and building trust with them, introducing elements of romance in the conversation. This may continue for several weeks, or even months. The fraudster will be dropping into the conversation that they are a business minded individual making a lot of money through cryptocurrency. They will usually say that they have a family member who is an expert in cryptocurrency investment who guides them. This can also provide the victim with reassurance that this is someone who isn't after their money, easing any concerns that this could be a romance fraud. They will make promises of the successful life they will have together. This is a process they call 'pig raising'.



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The Investment Proposal

The fraudster will then offer to help guide the victim through cryptocurrency investing, insisting they can help them make a lot of money, just like they do. Once the victim agrees, the fraudster sets them up on a fraudulent app or web platform, which may even be a clone of a genuine platform. Behind the scenes, this platform is completely controlled by the scamming team.

High Returns

The victim will put funds into their account and see what they believe is real-time market data. They will be able to watch their investment making them money and may even be able to withdraw a small amount of money from the platform. The reassurance of the withdrawal will encourage them to invest much larger amounts, as they are under the illusion that they will easily be able to withdraw funds at any time.



The Fraudster Disappears

The fraudster realises they have gotten all the money from the victim they are going to get and may have even coerced them into taking out loans to make further investments, insisting that a good trade is coming up that they just can't miss. At this point, the fraudster cuts contact with the victim, and they realise they have been scammed. This final stage is gruesomely known as 'pig killing'.

Advice

- **Just say no.** Don't invest in anything based merely on advice from someone you just met online.
- **Be sceptical.** Avoid anything with guaranteed rates of return or promises you'll double your money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Do your research. Any time you invest in anything, you need to do thorough research and seek advice from a financial advisor. It is difficult to tell a genuine investment opportunity apart from a fraudulent one, and even experienced investors get caught out.