

Your local Spring 2025 newsletter: North Devon Sector News

Meet your local policing team



Inspector
Richard Preston



Sergeant
Malcolm Kirk



PC Matt Reed



PC Paul
Woodward



PC Roger
Copeland



PCSO Ade
Drury



PCSO Andy
Frisby



PCSO Paul
Grantham



PCSO Dale
Kingdon

Meet the team at an event

We will announce some dates and locations in the next few weeks

We look forward to seeing you there.



Devon & Cornwall
POLICE

Message from your local sector inspector.

My name is Richard Preston, and I am the local sector Inspector for the North Devon Sector

This edition of the Spring newsletter contains lots of seasonal safety tips and crime prevention advice, as well as updates on issues and priorities that are of concern to our local communities.

My colleagues and I work hard to keep you safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Remember, if you need us but you're not in immediate danger or a crime isn't taking place, please get in touch via our website www.dc.police.uk/ro/report/

Dog walkers urged to take care



Lambing season is underway and in March and April, we are supporting Op Recall - a national operation to raise awareness of the impact of livestock worrying and prevent livestock attacks.

A report from the National Farmers' Union last year confirmed that dog attacks on livestock in the UK were estimated to cost £2.4 million.

Local police teams will be working in communities this Spring to provide advice on how to reduce livestock attacks.

Remember: If you're walking your dog in an open space, make sure it is under control at all times. If around livestock, make sure it is on a lead.

Livestock worrying is a crime and you can be prosecuted, receiving up to six months in prison and/or a £1,000 fine.

If you witness an attack on livestock, please do not intervene; keep yourself safe and call 999.

Rogue traders: what you need to know

Now the warmer weather is approaching, you may consider making improvements to your house and garden.

Be cautious of rogue traders who may knock on your door and offer to do work to your home or garden. Things to look

out for include:

Being offered a very cheap price, too good to be true
Being rushed into making a decision

Remember to ask for identification and understand the terms and conditions of the work. If in doubt call Police on 101

We're recruiting Police Community Support Officers!

PCSOs play a vital role in policing. No two days are ever the same. If you're over 18, have great communication skills and want to make a difference in your community, this could be the role for you.

Visit the recruitment page on the [Devon & Cornwall Police website](#) – applications close on 25 April 2025.



Keeping your garden crime free

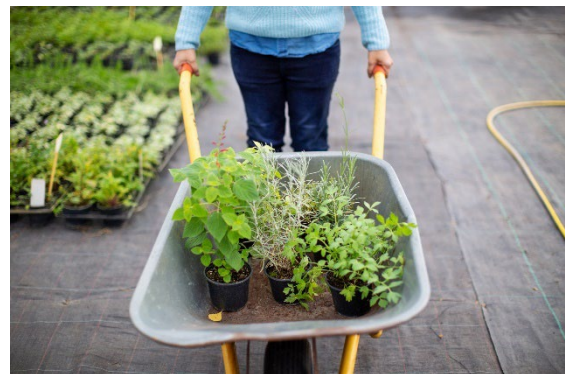
Now Spring is here, many of us are looking forward to spending more time in our gardens. Now is a good time to think about shed security and how you can keep your belongings safe.

Protecting your garden and outbuildings keeps your valuables hidden. Here are some tips to consider:

- 1) Keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low so burglars have nowhere to hide.
- 2) Lock side gates at all times
- 3) Consider spiky, defensive planting and keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high
- 4) Gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected, due to the noise caused when someone walks on them.

- 5) Install an outside security light so intruders cannot approach without being seen and consider fitting a burglar alarm system.

For more information on how you can keep your home safe, please visit the Devon & Cornwall Police website and search 'protecting your home from crime'.



Sign up to Devon and Cornwall Alert

Sign up to Devon and Cornwall Alert, our two-way community messaging system to find out what's happening in your area. You can choose the type of information you would like to receive about crime, antisocial behaviour, witness appeals, crime prevention and good news. Just search for [Devon & Cornwall Alert online](#).



Electric bikes: don't get a shock, know the rules

We realise that the increasing popularity of e-bikes has led to more people riding on pavements and roads. We know this has caused significant public nuisance. If you have an e-bike, it's important you are aware of the rules to keep yourself and others safe.



According to current Government legislation, e-bikes can be used on public roads without a licence or insurance provided that:

- They are pedal assisted, bikes are fitted with pedals that are capable of propelling the bike.
- Maximum continuous rated power of the electric motor does not exceed 250 watts.
- Electrical assistance must cut off when the vehicle reaches 15.5 mph (25 kph).
- The rider is not under 14 years of age.

If your bike does not fit these guidelines, you can only ride your e-bike on a road if it is registered, taxed and you have a valid driving licence. You must also wear a motorcycle helmet and insure your vehicle. For more information, visit [GOV.uk website](https://www.gov.uk).

Street drinkers

Officers from the community policing team in partnership with the North Devon Council Antisocial behaviour team have been addressing the issue of nuisance street drinkers in Ilfracombe town, enforcing the no alcohol zone and dealing with any breaches. There are now eleven of the street drinking fraternity who are subject to either Community protection notices or Community behaviour orders. Their behaviour is monitored, and any breaches of these orders acted upon.

Problem youths

Several youths in our town who are causing issues have been placed on the antisocial behaviour escalation process. There has also been an element of youths from other areas visiting Ilfracombe, linking with local youths, and causing issues. Officers have responded robustly to this situation. These collective actions have contributed to a reduction in reports of antisocial behaviour in recent weeks. Officers continue to monitor the situation and act upon any incidents appropriately.