

Candidate enquiry

I wrote to you on 14 Dec asking for help to prevent Bath Car Break-Ins particularly in Twerton and SouthDown but this has now spread to Lansdown over the weekend.

Attached is the latest video recording of a Suspect trying Car Doors in Twerton. <https://www.facebook.com/100001690263188/videos/3777237782342527/>

PCC election board response

Thank you for your email dated 25th January concerning car breakings in the Bath area. I note the previous response from my office sent on 14th December 2020 whereby you raised concerns relating to vehicle crime specifically in the Twerton and Southdown areas. I was sorry to hear that these crimes have now permeated to the Lansdown area.

I do appreciate how distressing it is for victims when such crimes occur in the local neighbourhood. I understand also the frustration of having to remedy the damage caused, replace items taken and the subsequent cost implications for those affected.

Whilst this is an operational matter and therefore falls under the remit of the Chief Constable, I will always seek to query or question the actions of Avon & Somerset Police on behalf of our communities where appropriate and I have taken the action of following up this matter with the Neighbourhood Policing Team for the Bath area.

The police have, as you rightly identify, seen a noticeable increase in theft from vehicle and damage to vehicle offences across the area of Bath south of the river throughout the late autumn/winter period. The Neighbourhood Policing Teams, with assistance from Response Teams and Local Tasking Teams, have focused their efforts and patrols in the targeted areas in an attempt to proactively deter and disrupt potential offending.

The intelligence surrounding the damage offences focused on some named individuals and I have been advised that the statistics around reported crime show that this has now declined to comparative seasonal levels. However, despite this decline, I can fully appreciate that this remains a concern amongst local residents.

As aforementioned in my previous correspondence, I advised that the theft from motor vehicle offences have been linked to two key individuals. One offender being linked to the vast majority of these, some in the local community have been able to name him. Sadly his reputation locally has meant that many have not been willing to get involved in supporting any formal criminal action against him. Officers have deployed a number of tactics, hoping to catch him in the act of stealing from a vehicle, knowing the police evidence will add strong value to the case against him. The police are reliant on the public reporting offences to them as the location and time frames have a huge impact on the geographic strategy they adopt to target their patrols. Both the police and I would encourage any member of the public who has been victim of any offence to come forward and report to the police over the phone on 101 or online via the Avon & Constabulary website. Every crime is reviewed and impacts on the policing approach. I have been advised that our Police systems do not show any theft from vehicle offences over the weekend in Lansdown. I

would urge these victims to come forward and we would very much value your support in making this happen.

The main suspect was located early hours of the morning mid-January and was searched. He had items on him that led to him being arrested for going equipped, as well as a number of shoplifting offences he had been linked to. He sadly did not receive a custodial sentence when he attended court for these matters this week.

The Facebook video you attach from Wedmore Park is a video that the Neighbourhood Policing Team are already aware of and have made enquiries accordingly.

These vehicle crime offences are the biggest issue in the outer Bath area currently and I would like to reassure you that the Avon and Somerset police are striving to do all they can to see that the problem is resolved.