

Hello! And welcome to the first Business Crime Unit monthly newsletter. Issue 1 will give you an idea of what we do in the Business Crime Unit, our strategy and the current National crisis

Introduction and COVID19 update: Although these are unprecedented times for us all, at Essex Police our plans and promises to the public remain the same; to support and protect the vulnerable at all times, support victims of crime and be visible in our communities whilst dealing with violent crime in all its forms.

This will remain our priority during this national crisis but alongside this we need to pay particular attention to emerging concerns around the COVID19 pandemic and any possible adverse effect that may have on our business communities.

At this stage, incidents of crime and Anti-social behaviour have fallen due to the government guidance on movement, but we can not be complacent.

The Business Crime Team has been created to keep a strategic overview on incidents and ongoing issues that have a direct effect on businesses. A Crime Against Business Strategy has been implemented with the objectives of increasing confidence in the business communities, improving crime prevention and strengthening partnership working and approaches to ongoing concerns. The Business Crime Team have already reached out to hundreds of local businesses and will continue to do so during this extraordinary time.

The Crime Against Business Strategy can be found at: <https://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/news/beating-business-crime-together/>

Each policing district has a Community Policing Team and the Business Crime Team has already worked with them to ensure that industrial and business areas are included within a new patrol plan for their district.

If during this time of national emergency we can offer any advice or reassurance on policing matters, please do not hesitate to contact us at business.crime.unit@essex.police.uk

Please stay safe. Don't take any risks with your health or the health of others and follow government guidelines to

Meet the Team!

Left to Right:

PC Michael Lee

Katie Roberts (Crime Analyst)

Chief Inspector Terry Balding

Sargent Terry Jacobs

PC Alex Plakhtienko





Newsletter 1

Business Crime Unit

National Intelligence Picture

Government guidelines around the COVID19 pandemic have had an impact on criminality seeing some offenders change from their normal offending patterns to new or different offences. The main patterns being noticed are:

- Pharmacies being broken into and theft of prescription pain killers as the government restrictions have an impact on 'County Lines' and the supply and distribution of prohibited drugs.
- Warehouses and storage sites being targeted as the buildings remain unstaffed. Premises of national electrical chains are having walls rammed and electric goods stolen.
- Pubs and bars being targeted for cigarettes and cash from machines
- Theft of cigarettes and alcohol from service stations
- Construction sites being targeted for tools and machinery as sites are left vacant.
- Theft from HGVs as the vehicles become more recognisable as motorways are clearer of traffic and less patrols by police traffic vehicles. HGVs are also being targeted at fuel forecourts and are having side curtains slashed. Drivers sometimes being robbed.
- Offenders following home delivery vehicles of companies who are now leaving goods on doorsteps to achieve social distancing. Offenders are lifting goods from doorsteps. Incident in Avon and Somerset of a robbery from an Amazon driver, vehicle and all parcels stolen.
- NHS PPE stolen, uniforms and ID cards so offenders can gain entry to hospitals and storage sites. Uniform and ID also being used for drug distribution by county lines. The belief that dealers will be less likely to be stopped if in uniform.

The Emergency Keyholders List

At the start of this pandemic, we introduced the Emergency Keyholders Contact List as another measure to ensure we are ready to react promptly should any incident occur that might affect unattended business units. Without it, literally hours might be lost trying to obtain contact details, so we hope you also feel this is a good idea.

We have reached out to hundreds of businesses in Essex who have already added their details, so if you would like to join, please provide us with your company name and address, a contact emergency telephone number and name for the contact. Send this information to

business.crime.unit@essex.police.uk

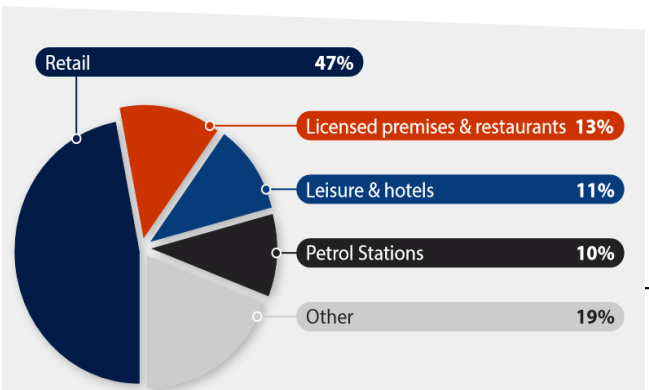
This list will be kept at our Force Control Room (FCR) so that you can be contacted in an emergency without delay. Your details will not be shared with anybody else.

Facts and Figures:

22,000
crimes take place **against**
businesses each year.



of all recorded crime in Essex occurred against or at businesses.



Newsletter

Business Crime Unit

We will work closely with businesses to prevent crime, identifying and prioritising resources to tackle it through:

- Working with the Essex Business Crime Strategic Board to ensure businesses have a strong voice in policing priorities.
- Identifying and working with local business groups, Business Improvement Districts and other associations
- Providing funding for innovative, business-led crime prevention projects
- Growing the Employer Supported Policing Programme
- Working together to identify and create safer physical environments
- Recognising vulnerability in whatever form and working together to refer and signpost those affected to relevant agencies.

Each month we will bring you the latest on work we are conducting throughout the county, our projects and innovative ways of tackling offences and on-going concerns that effect business.

We will also give you the national picture, intelligence and emerging crime trends to be aware of.



We will tackle those who commit crimes against businesses through:

- Cracking down on incidents of violence against businesses and their employees
- Promoting the effective use of dispersal orders, behaviour orders and civil remedy
- Promoting the use of restorative justice

If we can offer any advice or reassurance, please contact us at
business.crime.unit@essex.police.uk