



On the beat in...

North Shropshire

Market Drayton

Wem

Whitchurch

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

October 2026

Current statistics on calls to police and crime recording for your neighbourhood can be found at www.police.uk

If you wish to discuss further, please contact a member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Market Drayton – Team contact details:

Team email	marketdrayton.snt@westmercia.police.uk	
Safer Neighbourhood Officer	PC Iain McIntosh	Mobile 07811 748732
Safer Neighbourhood Officer	PC Tom Rayment	Mobile 07977 957718
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Steve Robinson	Mobile 07870 218709
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Tara Carruthers	Mobile 07971 050442
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Richard Parker	Mobile 07483 123 858

Wem – Team contact details:

Team email	wem.snt@westmercia.police.uk	
Safer Neighbourhood Officer	PC Jack Harper	Mobile 07870 218709
Safer Neighbourhood Officer	PC Mark Holtschke	Mobile 07971 050442
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Olly Morris	Mobile TBC

Whitchurch – Team contact details:

Team email	whitchurch.snt@westmercia.police.uk	
Safer Neighbourhood Officer	PC Mark Bates	Mobile 07900 607965
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Jamie Robinson	Mobile 07967 301147
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Dave Andrew	Mobile 07971 395050
Police Community Support Officer	PCSO Lee Durrant	Mobile 07483 102701

Reporting A Crime

Is it an emergency?

Call **999** in emergency situations like these:

- there is an immediate danger to life
- someone is using violence or is threatening to be violent
- a crime is happening right now, like a house burglary or a theft
- the suspect is still at the scene

If it's not an emergency

If you've witnessed or been the victim of crime that isn't an emergency, please report it to us.

Your report will be sent direct to our control room. Before you give us the details of the crime, we'll ask you a few questions to make sure you go to the right online form.

www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/

Please encourage your Parishioners to sign up to **Neighbourhood Matters...**

Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses, and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can choose exactly what type of alert you wish to receive and how you receive them; whether that be by email, text or telephone. Sign up now:

www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

A blue banner for Neighbourhood Matters. On the left, there is a row of four icons: a car, a location pin, a person, and a house. Below these icons, the text 'NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS' is written in white. To the right of the icons is a white silhouette of a city skyline with a bridge. Below the skyline, the text 'Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams' is written in white, followed by the website 'www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk' in a larger white font. On the far right, the West Mercia Police logo is displayed, featuring a crown and the words 'West Mercia POLICE' in white.

Sign up to receive alerts from your local policing teams www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

 **West Mercia
POLICE**

Hello Parish Councils,

This is your North Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Newsletter for **October 2026**.

Please see the following link for crime recording statistics for your area, or any other area in the UK should you wish: www.police.uk

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further and if we can provide more information we will; our contact details are above. If there is anything specific that is affecting your parish area above and beyond the three priorities you have nominated, again please let us know and we will endeavour to support you.

The official West Mercia Police website (www.westmercia.police.uk) has a wealth of information and includes dedicated sections in relation to **News, Recruitment, Watch Schemes, Neighbourhood Matters, Crime Prevention Advice, Support For Victims, other Advice and Information and Thanks & Complaints**.

Our North Shropshire SNTs work in a very challenging and varied role; no two days are the same and naturally there are many requests for our time, support and assistance. Obviously, much of what we do we can't tell you too much about, but rest assured that much of our focus is on the three Parish Council Priorities that you provide us with quarterly.

Much of the good work that SNTs engage with are posted in the following places:

Parish Council attendance in person or North Shropshire SNT Newsletters

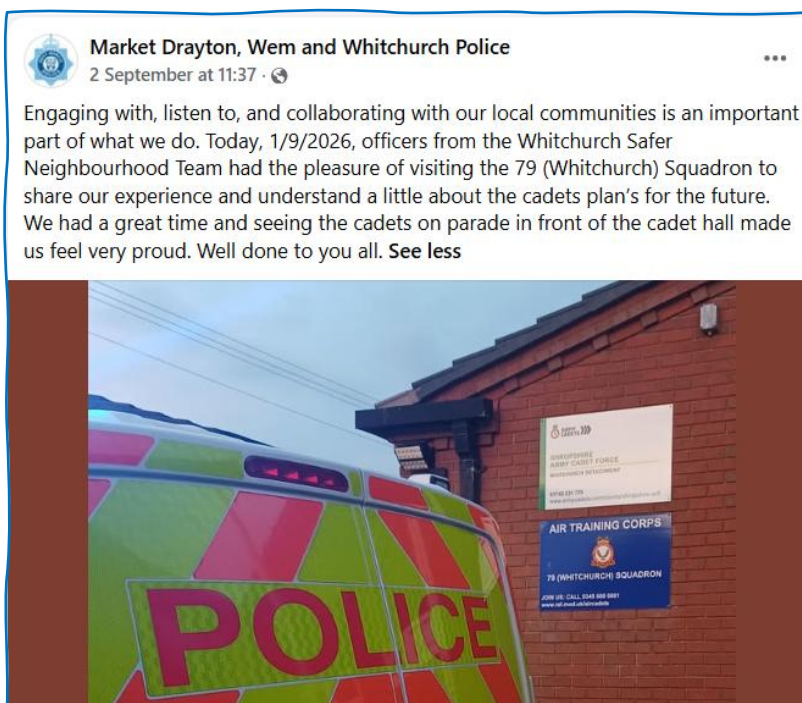
Neighbourhood Matters	www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk
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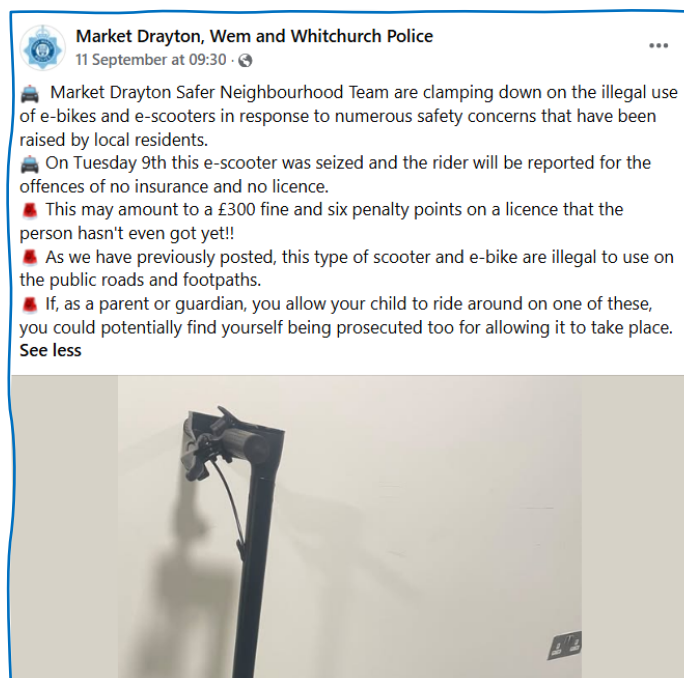
Facebook (North Shropshire specific)	www.facebook.com/MktDraytonPolice
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Facebook (West Mercia Police)	www.facebook.com/westmerciapolice
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Facebook (Rural Matters)	www.facebook.com/WMPRuralMatters
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Below is just a small snapshot of the good work North Shropshire SNTs have been involved with recently...






Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police
11 September at 14:24 · 🌐
...


Rural Crime Prevention Hub Officers Visit Market Drayton Livestock Market


Today, officers from the Rural Crime Prevention Hub attended Market Drayton Livestock Market, engaging with local farmers, traders, agricultural businesses and members of the public.

These visits provide an excellent opportunity to discuss rural crime concerns, offer crime prevention advice, and strengthen relationships with those who live and work within our rural communities.

As part of today's visit, officers also conducted checks on farm machinery and equipment being offered for sale. Using ultra-violet (UV) marking detection equipment alongside traditional identification methods, including serial number and forensic property marking checks, officers worked to ensure that any machinery being auctioned could be verified and was not suspected of being stolen.

Rural theft continues to have a significant impact on the farming community, and proactive measures such as these help deter offenders, safeguard legitimate owners, and maintain confidence within the agricultural sector.

We would like to thank everyone who took the time to speak with us today. If you have any concerns regarding rural crime, suspicious activity, or would like crime prevention advice, please get in touch with us via 101 or report online through the force website. In an emergency, always dial 999.

📞 Report suspicious activity 🛡️ Protecting our rural communities 🤝 Working together to prevent rural crime

[#RuralCrimePreventionHub](#)
[#RuralCrime](#)
[#FarmWatch](#)
[#MarketDrayton](#)
[#RuralPolicing](#)
[#ProtectingOurCommunities](#)
[#AgriculturalSecurity](#)
[#WorkingTogether](#)
[See less](#)


Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police
18 September at 16:35 · 🌐
...

Officers have arrested three people this morning (Friday 18 September) following two drug warrants at addresses in Wem.

A man, aged 27, and a woman, aged 22, were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs following a warrant at an address on New Street in the town.

When officers from Wem's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) entered the property, they discovered suspected class B drugs and an imitation firearm.

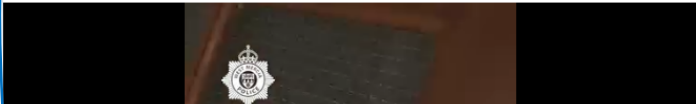
A 54-year-old man was also arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of controlled drugs following a second warrant at an address on Oakley Meadow. During a search of the property, officers discovered more suspected class B drugs.

All three remain in police custody as enquiries continue.

Inspector Rich Jones, from the SNT, said: "We understand the impact that suspected drug-related activity can have on residents and the wider community, and we are committed to taking action on the information we receive.

"Today's warrants demonstrate that we will act on concerns and intelligence about suspected criminality in our communities.

"We would encourage anyone with concerns about drugs or other criminal activity in their area to report them to police." [See less](#)



**Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police**

19 September at 12:15 · 🌐

By building strong relationships, listening to local concerns, and working together to find solutions, we can help create safer and stronger communities for everyone. On Sunday 27th September, officers from the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team will be available at the entrance to the Lidl store in Whitchurch from 11.45am then at the entrance of the Tesco store from 1pm until 2pm. You don't need an appointment, just come along and let us know what you have to say. [See less](#)

EVENT
**WEST MERCIA
POLICE**



**Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police**

19 September at 15:50 · 🌐

The community of Whitchurch have demanded a greater focus on speeding and anti-social driving. Today, 19/09/2026, officers from the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team stopped a black BMW for driving anti-socially through the town centre. The vehicle was served a Section 59 Notice and towed away. [See less](#)



**Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police**

21 September at 15:26 · 🌐

...

A woman has been arrested and drugs seized after officers carried out a drugs warrant at an address in the north of Shropshire this morning (Monday 21 September)

Officers from Wem and Oswestry's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) carried out the warrant at an address on Lowe Hill Gardens in Wem, where they discovered a quantity of class B drugs.

A 31-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of drugs. The woman has been released under investigation while enquiries continue.

PC Jack Harper, from Wem's SNT, said: "We know the impact that drug-related activity can have on our communities, and I hope today's action provides reassurance to residents that we will act on information we receive.

"This warrant was carried out following intelligence received by officers, and I would encourage the public to continue reporting any concerns or suspicious activity to us. The information you provide helps us build a clearer picture of what is happening in our communities and allows us to take appropriate action.

"We remain committed to tackling the supply of illegal drugs and disrupting those suspected of being involved." [See less](#)



**Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police**

23 September at 11:21 · 🌐

...

In the UK, Vehicle Excise Duty (VED), commonly called road tax, is a legal requirement for almost all vehicles on public roads. Today, Tuesday 22nd September, officers from the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team seized this car on Green End which had been without road tax for almost a year. [See less](#)





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

5 days ago · 🌐

Yesterday, Friday 25th September 2026, officers from the Whitchurch Safer Neighbour Team attended a road traffic collision on the B5395 Chester Road near Whitchurch. Thankfully, there were no serious injuries, but Fire and Ambulance also attended the scene and the road was closed for several hours. Thankyou for your patience. [See less](#)



Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

2 days ago · 🌐

Officers from the Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team were more than happy to provide cover for their Market Drayton colleagues at the 'Ginger & Spice Festival' on Saturday.

After a 13 mile bike ride from Whitchurch, PCSO Durrant carried out foot patrols around the festival and even got a photo with the Mayor of Market Drayton, the Honorable Mr. Tim Manton [See less](#)





Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch Police

a day ago · 🌐

...

Those summer ice creams seem a distant memory now, but last week PC Platt, while on C Shift response alongside Whitchurch SNT, had a rather unusual encounter involving an ice cream van.

Following intelligence received, a marker had been placed on the vehicle due to concerns that it was being driven by a disqualified driver.

When PC Platt stopped the van, they discovered that the suspected driver was not behind the wheel.

However, in an unexpected turn of events, the driver they did find was also disqualified from driving. The driver was arrested at the scene, the vehicle was seized and they will now be summoned to court.

Safe to say, on this occasion, the driver's working day came to a rather "short and sweet" end. **See less**



As part of the monthly Newsletter, we will be adding trending and/or appropriate crime prevention advice and information. Along with any recent updates from our other policing departments and partners.

This month's Newsletter contains information on:

- **'Are you aware of Community Speed Watch, and is it relevant to your parish?'**
- **'Operation Snap'**
- **'WalkSafe'**
- **'StreetSafe'**
- **'Violence Against Women and Girls' (VAWG)**
- **'Crimestoppers' & 'Fearless'**
- **'Report Fraud'**
- **'The Victim Support Gateway'**
- **'SmartWater'**

Are you aware of Community Speed Watch, and is it relevant to your parish?

With Community Speed Watch now in its eighth year of operation within West Mercia, local communities are being reminded about the scheme and how volunteers can get involved in speed monitoring and improve the quality of life in their area if speeding traffic is causing concern.

Community Speed Watch is a community driven road safety initiative, coordinated by West Mercia Police but managed and run by volunteers in the community. It involves trained volunteers from the community monitoring the speeds of vehicles with approved, hand-held speed measurement devices. Where vehicle speeds are found to be inappropriate, a letter is sent to the registered keeper by the police with the aim of encouraging them to reduce their speed when driving in the future.

The scheme was introduced within West Mercia in 2014 and has gone from strength to strength over the last 8 years with over 40 active sites currently operating. It was introduced to enhance the force's speed enforcement strategy, by addressing community concerns in areas that do not meet either speed or collision criteria for police-led enforcement.

A Community Speed Watch scheme is initiated when 'speeding traffic' has been identified as a community road safety concern by a parish council or Safer Neighbourhood Team. However, several criteria must be met before a scheme can be established:

- The area must have a 30mph or 40mph speed restriction
- Speed data collected by West Mercia Police must show that speed levels in the area do not meet the national industry requirements for police enforcement
- No other enforcement activity is currently in place
- There must be at least six volunteers in each Community Speed Watch scheme
- Speed checks must be conducted by at least three volunteers at any one time.



Operation Snap



As part of Operation Snap, members of the public can report and submit digital footage showing potential traffic offences via a secure online form.

<https://secureform.nextbase.co.uk/>

This can range from driving dangerously or carelessly to overtaking on solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving, ignoring traffic lights or dangerous driving around other road users, such as horse riders and cyclists.

Please note; issues with number plates, windscreens and minor traffic offences are unable to be dealt with via Op Snap.

General parking complaints (other than illegal parking on zig zags) should be raised with the relevant local authority. Notification of untaxed vehicles can be reported directly to DVLA, reports of no MOT or no insurance should be logged to 101, not via the Op Snap portal.

Your submission will be sent to West Mercia Police where the evidence will be reviewed by one of our road traffic police officers.

One statement is required for each submission/offending vehicle. We are unable to process multiple offences sent as one submission.

We will strive to update each submitter regarding the outcome of their allegation. All submissions are dealt with pro-actively to help reduce risk taking and poor driving on our counties roads.

Any footage submitted through the portal can be used by us to help educate other road users and to advise on case results.

Operation Snap

Please note - if you operate a recording device in a public place, you may have obligations under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It is in your interest to familiarise yourself, and comply with, any such obligations as apply to you. If you are in any doubt as to your obligations, please obtain independent legal advice to ensure you do not put yourself at risk of prosecution. By submitting footage you acknowledge you have read and understood this before proceeding.

For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions section or email OpSnap@westmercia.police.uk

'WalkSafe' - Personal safety app launched across West Mercia

West Mercia Police has launched a personal safety app, which aims to help people feel more confident when out and about during the busy festive period.

WalkSafe is available to people across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire and provides users with a list of safety-trained venues, including bars, restaurants and other premises that meet recognised standards through schemes such as Licensed Security & Vulnerability Initiative (LSAVI) and Best Bar None.

The app also allows people to plan their route home, share their journey with trusted friends or family and make use of an SOS alert button if they feel unsafe.

The introduction of WalkSafe across West Mercia supports ongoing work to improve safety in public spaces, particularly for women and girls.

WalkSafe is backed by West Mercia's Police and Crime Commissioner and is funded through the Home Office. It will be available all year round.



StreetSafe: Helping Make Our Communities Safer

StreetSafe is a national online tool that allows members of the public to tell the police about places where they feel unsafe.

This could be due to poor lighting, anti-social behaviour, abandoned buildings, lack of CCTV, or other environmental factors that make people feel vulnerable when out and about.

Reports can be submitted anonymously and do not require a crime to have taken place. Instead, StreetSafe helps police and local partners identify patterns and locations where improvements may be needed to increase public safety and confidence.

The information provided helps inform local problem-solving initiatives and can contribute to changes such as improved lighting, environmental improvements, increased patrols, or partnership work with local authorities. If there is an immediate danger, ongoing crime, or an emergency situation, people should continue to report this via 999 or 101 as appropriate.

To submit a report or find out more, visit: www.police.uk/streetsafe

Your experiences matter. By sharing concerns about locations that feel unsafe, you can help make your community a safer place for everyone.



Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): What Is It and How to Report It

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) refers to a range of behaviours and offences that disproportionately affect women and girls.

This can include domestic abuse, stalking, harassment, sexual offences, controlling or coercive behaviour, so-called honour-based abuse, forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and persistent unwanted attention either in person or online. VAWG can have a significant impact on victims' safety, wellbeing, and confidence.

Many incidents go unreported, which is why police, local authorities, and partner agencies work together to encourage reporting and ensure victims receive the support they need.

If you or someone you know is experiencing VAWG-related behaviour, it can be reported to the police by calling 999 in an emergency or 101 for non-emergency incidents.

Reports can also be made online via your local police force website. Victims can access specialist support services regardless of whether they choose to make a formal police report.

If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. By recognising the signs of abuse and reporting concerns early, we can help protect those at risk and make our communities safer for everyone.

For more information and support, visit your local police force website or www.gov.uk and search for Violence Against Women and Girls



The contacts below may be of interest to those in the parish who may be more comfortable reporting crime or giving information to the police, anonymously:

CrimeStoppers.
Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.



0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

Are your parishioners aware of Report Fraud?



www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

0300 123 2040

There is now a new national cyber crime and fraud service called **Report Fraud**.

This replaces Action Fraud, which has been around since 2009, and is completely new service for reporting and responding to cyber crime and fraud. It will provide an end-to-end service, from how reports of cyber crime and fraud can be made, to how reports are analysed and how victims are supported.

Report Fraud has been designed and delivered by the City of London Police, who are the national policing lead for fraud, in close partnership with the National Crime Agency along with banking, tech and victim services.

How does Report Fraud differ from Action Fraud?

- Law enforcement agencies will be able to share data to and / or from the new service.
- The new service will assist in taking down websites, bank accounts and other channels through which criminal activity takes place.
- It will provide specialist advice and support to victims of crime.
- Be able to take forward investigations into reports of criminal activity.
- Use trends on threats at international, national, regional and local level.

Report Fraud will:

- Make it easier for anyone from any background or demographic to report cyber crime and fraud.
- Inform victims about what has happened or is happening with their report.
- Quickly and efficiently inform victims when their crime report has contributed towards the protection of others.
- Protect a greater number of people and businesses from the risk of cyber crime and fraud through delivery of targeted and timely advice on how to avoid the latest threats.
- Significantly improve the speed and quality of information provided to law enforcement partners, boosting their chances of successful prosecutions.
- Block and disrupt crime through providing real-time information to those institutions and organisations who can deter and disrupt fraudulent websites, bank accounts, and other activities enabling criminality.



The Victim Support Gateway

The Victim Support Gateway is a free and confidential support service available to anyone in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin or Worcestershire who has been affected by crime.

You'll have a named point of contact to help you with a range of services including:

- emotional support
- practical help
- help to navigate the criminal justice system
- support in dealing with services such as housing and insurance
- access to specialist support services
- personal safety advice and equipment

The Victim Support Gateway can be contacted via:

Victim Support Gateway	www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/west-mercia/
Telephone	01905 726 896
Email	VictimSupportGateway@victimsupport.org.uk
24/7 Live chat	Live chat

INTRODUCING SMARTWATER®



WHAT IS SMARTWATER?

SmartWater is a sophisticated security system that protects property, deters thieves and helps the police to convict criminals. It can be directly applied to valuables or it can be used to spray criminals committing a crime. SmartWater contains a unique forensic code that is registered to an address or location. Anything marked can be traced back to where it came from, allowing the police to identify stolen property and link criminals to crime scenes. SmartWater is almost invisible in natural light but glows brightly under ultraviolet (UV) light.

WHERE IS SMARTWATER USED?

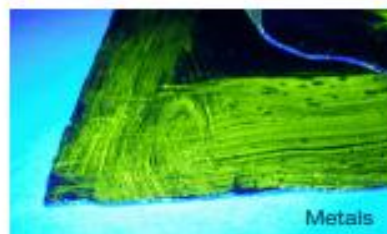
- Homes use SmartWater to protect electrical goods, jewellery and other valuables.
- Many businesses protect IT equipment, infrastructure and tools.
- Shops and banks use it to deter robberies.
- Railways are marking trackside cable.
- Cars, vans, bikes, boats, and other vehicles can all use SmartWater.
- Farms and rural communities are protecting machinery and stoneware (including paving and dry stone walls).
- Many schools protect their IT and sports equipment.
- Utility firms apply SmartWater to metals and cables.
- Thousands of Churches use SmartWater on lead roofing.
- Many Cash-in-transit cashboxes are fitted with SmartWater.
- Retail chains are using SmartWater to reduce pilferage and internal theft.



Valuables



Criminal
activation
on skin



Metals

Photographs taken under UV light.

WHY DO CRIMINALS AVOID SMARTWATER?

If a criminal is marked with SmartWater or caught with SmartWater-marked property, they face an increased risk of prosecution. SmartWater has helped to convict hundreds of criminals and has a 100% conviction rate. Police Forces nationwide, along with many second hand dealers, scrap merchants and recyclers are all looking for SmartWater.

For further information, please go to www.smartwater.com or call: **0333 320 7797**



In partnership with:



Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

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HELP US TO REDUCE CRIME IN YOUR AREA



SMARTWATER® HOME SECURITY PACK: SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL PRICE

SmartWater is manufactured right here in the West Midlands. They are a local company working in partnership with your local police to reduce crime in your communities.

Thanks to West Mercia and Warwickshire Police's **WE DON'T BUY CRIME** project, you can purchase SmartWater for your home at a special promotional price of **£19.95*** with no annual fees.



Photographs taken under ultraviolet light.

HOW SMARTWATER WORKS:

- SmartWater has a **unique forensic code** that, once applied, makes equipment traceable back to their owner
- SmartWater is **easy to apply** and only visible under UV light**
- Each application is guaranteed to last **5-years****
- Recognised by criminals - SmartWater **THIEVES BEWARE®** deterrent signage sends out a powerful warning to thieves
- Responsible for convicting hundreds of criminals, with a **100% conviction rate** in contested court cases
- Only a speck the **size of a pinhead** is required to convict
- When deployed by police, SmartWater has helped reduce burglary by up to 85%.

HOW TO BUY:

Please visit: www.smartwater.com/redeem

Or call: **0333 320 7797**

Use discount code: **WDBCRIME25**



**When applied in accordance to the application instructions



FIND OUT MORE
Scan the QR code to
learn more about our
products and services



Secured by Design



Official Police Security Initiative

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www.smartwater.com