



# On the beat in... North Shropshire

Market Drayton  
Wem  
Whitchurch

Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter

September  
2024

*Current statistics on calls to police and crime recording for your neighbourhood can be found at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk). If you wish to discuss further, please contact a member of your Safer Neighbourhood Team.*

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## Market Drayton – Team contact details:

**Team email:** marketdrayton.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Iain McIntosh **Mobile:** 07811 748 732

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Andy King **Mobile:** 07870 163 116

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Tara Carruthers **Mobile:** 07971 050 442

**Police Community Support Officer:** **Mobile:**

## Wem – Team contact details:

**Team email:** wem.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Jack Harper **Mobile:** 07817 885 113

**Police Community support Officer:** PCSO Lizz Walmsley **Mobile:** 07967 303 567

**Police Community support Officer:** PCSO Olly Morris **Mobile:** 07970 879 117

## Whitchurch – Team contact details:

**Team email:** whitchurch.snt@westmercia.police.uk

**Safer Neighbourhood Officer:** PC Ben Jones **Mobile:** 07973 885 557

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Jamie Robinson **Mobile:** 07967 301 147

**Police Community Support Officer:** PCSO Dave Andrew **Mobile:** 07971 395 050

**Police Community Support Officer:** **Mobile:**

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## On the beat in... North Shropshire

### Market Drayton – Wem – Whitchurch

Our North Shropshire Parish Councils and their chosen priorities:

Market Drayton		Wem		Whitchurch	
<b>Market Drayton Town</b>	Drugs	<b>Wem Town</b>	Speeding	<b>Whitchurch Town</b>	Drugs
	ASB		ASB		ASB
	Not provided		Thefts (Other)		ASD
<b>Adderley</b>	Farm thefts	<b>Wem Rural</b>	Rural Crime	<b>Whitchurch Rural</b>	Speeding
	Speeding		Drugs		Thefts (Outbuilding)
	Not provided		Speeding		Other Traffic Offences
<b>Cheswardine</b>	ASB	<b>Hadnall</b>	Speeding	<b>Prees</b>	Other Traffic Offences
	Dwelling thefts		ASB		ASB
	Not provided		Thefts (Out bldg)		Thefts (Farms)
<b>Hinstock</b>	Speeding	<b>Shawbury</b>	Speeding	<b>Whixall</b>	Not provided
	Thefts		ASB		Not provided
	RTC		Drugs		Not provided
<b>Hodnet</b>	Speeding	<b>Clive</b>	ASB	<b>Ightfield with Calverhall</b>	Thefts (Farms)
	Not provided		Other Traffic offences		ASB
	Not provided		Thefts (Other)		Not provided
<b>Moreton Say</b>	Thefts (Farms)	<b>Grinshill</b>	Speeding		
	ASD		Wildlife Crime		
	Speeding		Thefts (Other)		
<b>Norton In Hales</b>	Not provided	<b>Myddle, Broughton &amp; Harmer Hill</b>	ASB		
	Not provided		Criminal Damage		
	Not provided		Speeding		

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### Market Drayton – Wem – Whitchurch

<b>Stanton Upon Hine Heath</b>	Speeding	<b>Lee Brockhurst</b>	Farm thefts	
	Thefts (Farm)		Speeding	
	Not provided		Other Traffic Offences	
<b>Stoke On Tern</b>	Speeding	<b>Loppington</b>	Not provided	
	Thefts (Farms)		Not provided	
	Wildlife Crime		Not Provided	
<b>Sutton Upon Tern</b>	Speeding			
	Thefts (Farms)			
	Thefts (Commercial)			
<b>Woore</b>	Speeding			
	Farm thefts			
	ASB			
<b>Childs Ercall</b>	Speed			
	Thefts (Farm)			
	ASD			
<b>Weston Under Redcastle</b>	Not provided			
	Not provided			
	Not provided			

Please encourage your parishioners to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters.

**Sign up to Neighbourhood Matters...** your brand-new community messaging service



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 at: [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)

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## Hello Parish Councils,

This is your North Shropshire Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Newsletter for **September 2024**. Please see the link above to **police.co.uk** for crime recording stats for your area, or any other area in the UK should you wish.

Please get in touch if you would like to discuss anything further, 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](http://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**.

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Our North Shropshire SNTs work in a very challenging and varied role and no two days are the same, 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 reports in person or Newsletters**
- **Neighbourhood Matters – [www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk)**
- **Facebook - [www.facebook.com/shropshirecops/](http://www.facebook.com/shropshirecops/)**
- **Twitter – [www.twitter.com/NorthShropCops](http://www.twitter.com/NorthShropCops)**

Below is just a small snapshot of the good work North Shropshire SNTs have been involved with recently...

 **Shropshire Police**  
2 August · 🌐

Mobile police station in your area...

Drop in to speak to Whitchurch Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) officers at the mobile police station on:

- 27th August - Prees Village Hall car park @ 6-8pm
- 28th August - Higher Heath Village Hall car park @ 6-8pm
- 29th August - Tilstock Village Hall car park @ 6-8pm
- 30th August - Whixall Social Centre car park @ 4.30-6pm
- 30th August - Ash Village Hall car park @ 6.30-8pm

We will be on hand to listen to any concerns and to offer crime prevention advice. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you there.

All the best,  
Whitchurch SNT

 **Shropshire Police**  
6 August at 11:25 · 🌐

Yesterday officers from North Shropshire Response Team D attended an RTC on Claypit Street Whitchurch. Upon arrival at the scene one of the drivers of the vehicles was found to be almost twice the drink drive limit.

The male was arrested and transported to custody where he was later charged with Driving Whilst Over The Prescribed Limit of Alcohol. A court date and likely ban awaits.



The graphic features the word "ARREST" in large white letters on a blue background. Below it is the West Mercia Police logo and the text "WEST MERCIA POLICE". The background of the graphic shows a close-up of silver handcuffs on a document.

## On the beat in... North Shropshire


### Market Drayton – Wem – Whitchurch

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 **Shropshire Police**  
9 August at 13:40 · 🌐


Whilst assisting colleagues in Shrewsbury today, Market Drayton Safer Neighbourhood Team PC, Iain McIntosh, bumped into the former Assistant Chief Constable of West Mercia Police, Peter Wright. Clearly enjoying his retirement but still immensely proud of West Mercia.



 **Shropshire Police**  
17 August at 11:08 · 🌐

A man has been charged with aggravated taking a vehicle without consent and dangerous driving and will be appearing in court today (Saturday).

Callum Roberts, 19, of Tern Hill, Market Drayton, is set to appear at Kidderminster Magistrates' Court to face the charges which relate to a collision in Claremont Street, Shrewsbury on Thursday evening.






 **Shropshire Police**  
18 August at 11:35 · 🌐

ROAD CLOSURE A49 | Due to a single -vehicle collision, the A49 between Prees Green and the junction to the B5065, is currently closed.

There are no serious injuries reported and no arrests have been made.

This part of the road is suspected to be closed for approximately two hours (from around 11.20am), while the road is being cleared. Please seek alternative routes where possible.




 **Shropshire Police**  
21 August at 16:38 · 🌐

Whitchurch SNT have seized 2 vehicles whilst on Patrol in Prees today.

The vehicles in question had no insurance, tax or MOT and were of an unroadworthy condition.

Road safety is one of the priorities highlighted to us by Prees Parish Council and we will continue to address this as part of the Local Policing Community Charter.... [See more](#)



On the beat in... North Shropshire  
Market Drayton – Wem – Whitchurch

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Vehicle seized for no tax, Ightfield

Today Whitchurch SNT seized a vehicle from Ightfield that had been reported to us for being parked on the highway with expired tax.



Vehicle seized in Whitchurch for no tax.

Yesterday Whitchurch SNT seized a vehicle on Rosemary Lane, Whitchurch for having no tax since December 2023.





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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 sections on '**Rural crime**' (Parish council priority), '**ASB**' (Parish council priority), '**E-scooters**' (Emerging trend)

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## **Rural crime prevention advice**

### **Equipment and tool security**

Equipment and tool security can be a particular issue for rural businesses and farms.

To keep your belongings safe:

- lock equipment away in a secure building or part of a building when not in use
- invest in a secure storage toolbox
- install a burglar alarm on buildings where equipment is kept
- always lock vehicles when left outside and keep the keys in your possession
- keep expensive items and vehicles out of sight when not in use
- consider using hitch locks, wheel clamps or ground anchors
- mark your tools and equipment and register them
- keep a record of all valuable items
- consider fitting outside security lights

### **Estate and building security**

A good standard of building security is very important in rural areas, especially for outbuildings that may not be visited for weeks at a time.

Farmhouses and other rural properties are the same as any other home, so general home security advice still applies. However, because of the remote location, additional security measures may be beneficial.

To protect your rural home or business:

- keep the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained and secure
- keep all doors and windows shut and locked when not in use
- install a visible burglar alarm

- make sure windows and door frames are secure and in good repair
- fit strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings
- fit good quality window locks
- consider security bars and grilles for vulnerable windows and openings
- make sure gates cannot be lifted off or have their fixing bolts removed
- check security equipment regularly to ensure it works properly
- use locking posts or temporary obstructions to control wide access points to yards

For additional security you could also:

- install automatic security lights that come on at dusk and turn off at dawn
- install CCTV cameras to watch over the most vulnerable areas of the property
- install a monitored intruder alarm system
- install an entry control system infrared, intercom or keypad
- establish a single gated entrance and exit, removing all private access points that are not in use

#### **Boundaries**

Take a good look around your property boundary for any potential places where it could be made more secure.

Consider:

- planting thorny hedging to act as a natural barrier
- digging deep ditches to control and deter unwanted vehicle access
- if possible, having a single-gated access point to the property
- using locking posts or temporary obstructions to control large openings
- invert and cap gate hinges
- making sure fixing bolts are secure and use covered padlocks
- installing warning signs

Electric fences

Electric fences can be an easy target for thieves as they're often in remote locations away from the farm or stable.

Thieves steal them for scrap value, or offer them on second-hand markets without operating instructions.

To protect your fence and energiser, you could:

- visibly mark your equipment in a number of places as a deterrent, reducing its value and making it harder to sell on if stolen
- photograph the unit and record the make, model and serial number, to help the police if it's stolen
- attach your energiser to a sturdy fixed point or secure it in a purpose-made storage container

- hide or camouflage your energiser behind a fence or tree, in a hedge or in undergrowth
- attach a small tracker to the energiser
- cover the power light with tape

Stolen energisers are often sold on without instructions or packaging. If you see an item like this, and you're suspicious about how it's become available, please report it online.

#### Fire prevention

- dispose of refuse regularly and safely
- remove hay and straw from fields as soon as possible after harvesting and do not store it alongside other materials/vehicles
- store petrol, diesel and other fuels in secure areas and always padlock storage tank outlets
- seek further advice from your local fire service

#### Illegal activity

All incidents of illegal activity should be reported to the appropriate authority as soon as possible. If you are able to, make a note of any vehicle details and a description of the people involved.

Always consider your own personal safety first before approaching anyone you think might be doing something illegal.

#### Illegal occupation

As a landowner it's your responsibility to protect your land from unauthorised occupation. Making sure your premises and boundaries are secure will greatly reduce the risk of unauthorised occupation.

To help protect your land you could:

- look closely at the perimeter to ensure it is as secure as possible
- consider using large tree trunks, rocks, ditching and earth mounds around boundaries to prevent access
- restrict vehicle access by digging deep ditches
- keep unused land maintained and free from litter and other waste

If your land does become illegally occupied, you can take proceedings to the county court to obtain a court order for the eviction of illegal occupants. Occupants who fail to comply with this notice by leaving the land as soon as reasonably possible are committing an offence.

#### Diesel theft

Diesel theft is a problem for many farms and rural properties. Fuel tanks stored in rural and isolated locations are very attractive to thieves looking for an easy target.

- keep tanks stored close to the property where you can see them. If this isn't possible, you should consider installing CCTV to watch over isolated tanks and restrict access with walls,

fences and hedges. Security lighting such as 'dusk till dawn' or motion detection lighting can also be an effective deterrent to thieves

- remember to check the oil level in your tank regularly. Look for any spilt fuel, marks on the locks or anything else suspicious
- avoid installing a storage tank in an isolated area or outlying building
- consider using a mobile bowser (tanker) kept in a secure place when not in use
- use 'diesel dye', making your diesel traceable and less attractive to thieves

#### Livestock theft

You should check your livestock and the security of boundary fencing regularly. If they're making more noise than usual this could mean something has disturbed them.

- make regular checks of the fields where animals are kept to check that fences haven't been breached and that no one else is in the field with them
- use ear tags, horn brands, freeze marking or tattooing to make your animals more easily identifiable
- keep your hedges, fences and gates in good repair: field gate hinges should have capping hinges so they can't be removed easily; cattle grids should be removable and locked out of position when they're not in use; use locking posts to obstruct large openings to yards
- consider installing CCTV

Always report any suspicious activity involving livestock to the police.

#### Tack security

- secure tack room windows on the inside with solid iron bars (not tubular steel)
- secure all doors with good quality locks; use bolts (not screws) on the hinges
- mark your tack using an ultraviolet pen
- display warning signage to deter thieves
- padlock gates with substantial padlocks and heavy duty chains
- reverse top hinges on gates to prevent lifting
- install security lights and an intruder alarm

#### Chemical storage

- store fertilisers in a dedicated locked building or compound – don't leave them on public view
- don't sell fertiliser unless you know the potential purchaser to be a legitimate user
- record all deliveries and usage and carry out regular stock taking
- record manufacturers' code numbers and detonation resistance test certificates – you may be required to present them
- always report a stock discrepancy or loss immediately

The Health and Safety Executive can provide further advice on storage/transportation of fertilisers, particularly ammonium nitrate.

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## ASB advice

Some ASB incidents might be an issue for your local council so it may be useful to know to who contact.

### Here are some examples of ASB that we want to know about:

- Fireworks misuse
- Abandonment of cars
- Aggressive animals or use of animals in illegal activities
- Nuisance noise from people being inconsiderate in a public space
- Indecent, threatening or offensive phone calls
- Street drinking causing disruptive behaviour
- Vehicle nuisance such as street racing and riding unlicensed powered vehicles

### Here are some examples of ASB that isn't a police matter and your local council could be informed on:

- Someone blocking your driveway
- Stray dog that isn't sick or injured
- Nuisance noise from pubs and clubs, and construction sites
- General littering, fly-tipping, hazardous items
- Neighbour disputes such as loud music or dogs barking, parking, property boundaries, overgrowing trees and hedges
- Trespassing without causing damage or harm

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## E-scooters

What is an e-scooter?

Electrical scooters (also known as e-scooters) come under the category of "powered transporters"; this covers a range of personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles under the Road Traffic Act 1988. Which means the rules that apply to motor vehicles, also apply to e-scooters including the need to have a licence, insurance and tax.

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them on the road or in public spaces. If you're using a private e-scooter you risk the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for no insurance.



If you cause serious harm to another person whilst riding an e-scooter the incident will be investigated in the same way it would if you were riding a motorcycle or driving a car.

#### Rental e-scooter trials

Trials of rental e-scooters are taking place in the UK. Anyone using a rental e-scooter on a public road or other public space, has to comply with the relevant road traffic legislation or they face potential prosecution.

To rent an e-scooter you must:

- meet the minimum age limit; these can vary depending on the provider, so please check with them
- hold the correct driving licence (category Q or P/M)
- create an account with the rental company

E-scooters can only be used in approved areas.

#### Legal use of an e-scooter

It's legal to use an e-scooter on private land with the permission of the land owner.

Where a trial rental scheme is running, it's legal to use a rental e-scooter on a public road or cycle lane, provided you have the correct licence and follow road traffic regulations.

#### Penalties and offences

If you don't have a licence, or the correct licence, or are riding without insurance you could face a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Forces set and enforce penalties differently, so the penalty will vary depending on where the offence is committed.

If you are in Devon and Cornwall, the police will not issue fines, so other forms of penalty will be used if you use an e-scooter in a public place when not part of an approved trial.

For other forces in the UK and Northern Ireland, the Fixed Penalty Notice could include:

- a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for having no insurance
- a £100 fine and three to six penalty points for riding without the correct licence

You could also be committing an offence if you're caught:

- riding on a pavement; Fixed Penalty Notice and possible £50 fine
- using a mobile phone or other handheld mobile device while riding; £200 and six penalty points
- riding through red lights; Fixed Penalty Notice, £100 fine and possible penalty points
- drink driving: the same as if you were driving a car, you could face court imposed fines, a driving ban and possible imprisonment

If you're using an e-scooter in public in an antisocial manner, you can also risk the e-scooter being seized under section 59 of the Police Reform Act.

When riding an e-scooter, we would always recommend wearing safety protection such as a helmet and to keep to the speed limit.

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**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.



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.

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### Are your parishioners aware of Action Fraud?

If you've been the victim of a scam, fraud or online crime (cybercrime) you can report it to Action Fraud:

- Action Fraud website
- on **0300 123 2040** (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm).

Action Fraud is the national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. It collects reports about fraud on behalf of the police in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For fraud in Scotland please report it directly to Police Scotland.



# 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?

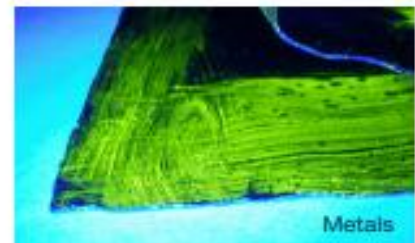
- Homes use SmartWater to protect electrical goods, jewellery and other valuables.
- Many businesses protect IT equipment, infrastructure and tools.
- Shops and banks use it to deter robberies.
- Railways are marking trackside cable.
- Cars, vans, bikes, boats, and other vehicles can all use SmartWater.
- 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](http://www.smartwater.com) or call: **0333 320 7797**



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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](http://www.smartwater.com/redeem)

Or call: **0333 320 7797**

Use discount code: **WDBCRIME25**



\*\*When applied in accordance to the application instructions



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Official Police Security Initiative

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