

# RuralMatters

POLICE SCOTLAND

Keeping our Rural Communities Safe

February 2023



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# RuralMatters

**Keeping our Rural Communities Safe**

**February 2023**

Welcome to the February edition of Rural Matters.

A bi-monthly bulletin produced by the Police Scotland North East Division Crime Reduction Team aimed at keeping you up to date with what's happening in our countryside.

In this edition of Rural Matters

**PC Richard Russell looks at how to protect your equestrian equipment from theft.**

We explain what makes a 'good' hasp and staple.

**Norette Ferns from RSABI explains the work the charity is undertaking to promote mental well being within agriculture.**

Alison Lynch, North East Division Adult Protection Co-ordinator examines the different types of Financial Harm.

**Wildlife Crime Officer PC Hannah Corbett explains the legislation protecting bats.**

*From the latest frauds and scams, to general security measures, each issue will bring you advice on how to keep your property safe.*

*Rural Crime across Scotland is increasing and criminals are using ever more sophisticated methods. By working in partnership we can make our countryside a safer place to live and work.*

# IT'S SIMPLE LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



Register your bike for free at  
[www.bikeregister.com](http://www.bikeregister.com)



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The Highland pony or 'Garron' is perfectly adapted to the most severe weather conditions. Strong, dependable, sometimes 'thrawn,' the breed is renowned for substance, strength and stamina. The Garron was traditionally used by stalkers in the Scottish Highlands to carry home deer at the end of a day's stalking.

# Equestrian Crime

By PC Richard Russell

Equine-related activity attracts criminals due to the high value of animals, equipment and transport. This criminality can have a financial and emotional impact on all concerned and can affect animals and owners long after an incident has taken place.

Police Scotland is committed to preventing, reducing and detecting equine-related crimes.

## Equestrian Incidents include

- Horse, tack and trailer theft
- Horse interference
- Safe and responsible access to the countryside
- Equine Road Safety
- Crime Reduction measures

The theft of horses and equestrian equipment can be a lucrative business for criminals. However, many precautions can be taken to keep all horses and equipment safe and secure. Evidencing that security measures are in place on equestrian premises deters many thieves. Any measures taken should increase the time taken to commit a crime and therefore increase the chances of being disturbed. Think like a thief and walk around your site considering what could easily be stolen and how good are your current levels of security.

The Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) lists Equestrian incidents as one of the key operational priorities for 2022 - 2025.

## Stables/Paddocks

The structure of any building should be solid in construction. Doors should be of substantial construction and secured with appropriate locks. Hinges and padlock mounts should be of a reverse-folding type, covering the bolt heads and preventing them from being removed.

Windows should be fitted with solid bars on the inside, and window dressings should be used to prevent thieves from seeing the inside.

Consider installing alarms and secure lighting. CCTV and alarm systems can now alert your phone or devices that they have been activated, which is ideal if no one lives near the site.

Gates to the stables should be locked, and gate hinges should be welded or reversed to prevent them from being lifted off. The main entrance leading into the site might be an ideal location for any security signage, e.g. CCTV.

All fences and hedges surrounding the area should be kept in a good state of repair. Any tools, ladders and wheelbarrows should be secured away at the end of the day. The opportunist thief will often use any tools lying about to force entry, so consider what is lying about and what could be used. Thieves have used wheelbarrows to remove heavy equipment across fields to their vehicles.



### Horseboxes and trailers

Photograph your horsebox/ trailer and record any security markings, serial and model numbers. They should always be secured using a wheel clamp, hitch locks, and a heavy-duty chain to secure them to a building or post. They should ideally be secured within a locked barn, but if you can't, park them in a well-lit area at night but out of view of the main road. Many now come with electronic tagging as an additional and covert means of identification. Consider having your trailer security marked with your postcode. Personalise your vehicles if possible.

### Saddlery

All saddlery and portable equipment should be marked with a security register number or owner's postcode where possible. Several security marking devices are available on the market, such as SelectaDNA

[www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-asset-marking/dnaequestrian](http://www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-asset-marking/dnaequestrian)

Most marking kits come with tamper-resistant warning labels, and additional signage can be purchased for display across the site.

If buying used equipment from an unknown seller, consider using a UV light to check if the equipment has previously been security marked.

### Horses

All horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport. In Scotland, it is the responsibility of the keeper to apply for a horse passport. Make sure your horse passport is up to date.

Microchipping your horse is compulsory and aids accurate identification as it provides a permanent link between the horse and its passport. Microchipping will also help recover and identify stolen and abandoned horses and assist with welfare cases. Using prominent signs which state that the animals are permanently tagged and identifiable, is an important additional deterrent.

Within Scotland, the movement or transport of equidae is permitted when accompanied by a ScotEquine card. The ScotEquine card does not replace a passport; it is a robust ID card (containing statutory information) which can accompany a horse when it is being transported as an alternative to the paper passport.

A horse cannot be bought or sold with only a ScotEquine card so before purchasing any horse make sure all the documentation is present and do your research.

Take lots of photographs of your horse, including any unusual markings which would help the Police with identification.

Your local police crime prevention officer can offer advice, ensuring that the most appropriate preventive measures are adopted.

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## What makes a good hasp & staple?

Be wary of those that are made from thin material - especially the staple (the 'eye' that the padlock fits through) as this is frequently the attack route for thieves.



**Always ensure both sides are bolted through. Don't just use wood screws.**

Quality hasp sets have a vertical staple eye. This allows a closed shackle padlock to hang properly. A horizontal eye means a closed shackle lock will protrude outwards making it more vulnerable to attack with a hammer.



RSABI provides vital emotional, practical and financial support to people involved in the Scottish agricultural industry, including farmers, crofters and farm workers with staff based across the country, including in the North East.





In recent months RSABI have launched a number of initiatives aimed at improving the mental wellbeing of people in the industry and to encourage those who are struggling to reach out for support.

#### **#KeepTalking this Winter**

Our #KeepTalking campaign, fronted by farmer and comedian Jim Smith, is encouraging everyone in farming and crofting to stay connected over the winter months.

You might have seen our video with a host of well-known farming faces singing an adaptation of Silent Night in the lead up to Christmas. While the standard of the singing varies, the message prevails that the winter can be a particularly challenging time for farmers and crofters and that a visit or a kind word or two can make a huge difference.

Lyrics such as 'So pick up the phone and mak someone's day, It's no the weather to be out makin' hay' and 'talk to someone – we care' are sung by well-known farming faces including The Hoof GP, Graeme Parker; Landward presenter, Cammy Wilson from The SheepGame; shepherdess, Emma Gray from This Farming Life, along with Jim Smith.

A series of Carols at the Marts events were also held toward the end of 2022, with United Auctions in Huntly hosting an evening of festive fun on 19 December.

#### **Mental Wellbeing app trialled with young farmers**

As part of a drive to encourage more young people to use our services, we have been working with the Scottish Association of Young Farmers' Clubs (SAYFC) to trial the Thrive Mental Wellbeing app in three of its clubs across Scotland.

The app is approved by the NHS, and includes access to a live in-app chat feature with qualified therapists who are available at the touch of a button. The service is being trialled in Aberfeldy, Biggar and Bell Baxter Young Farmers' Clubs over 12 months.

**So pick up the phone  
and mak someone's day,  
It's no the weather to be  
out makin' hay.**



Major Hugh Jones



### Working with former Royal Marines on a pioneering mental health project

We have been delighted with the positive response so far to our pioneering Mental Health First Aid Awareness training project which we're working on with former Royal Marines at IED Training.

The training is aimed at encouraging people to talk more freely about mental health, reducing stigma and improving understanding about what to look out for and how to respond when someone may be struggling.

The initiative offers the opportunity for participants to gain certification in the SCQF Level 4 Award for First Aid for Mental Health Awareness and/or SCQF Level 5 Award in First Aid for Mental Health. The training is aimed at organisations and individuals who work regularly in the front line with farmers or crofters, including those involved in assessments or inspections, consultants and advisers.

Eight training courses have so far been delivered during a pilot phase including assessors from Food Integrity Assurance, who undertake assessments on behalf of both Quality Meat Scotland and Scottish Quality Crops, with training also taking place in Orkney in February.

If you're interested in the Mental Health First Aid training please email [mentalhealthtraining@rsabi.org.uk](mailto:mentalhealthtraining@rsabi.org.uk) to register interest.

### Don't hesitate to reach out for support

Last year, RSABI extended its Freephone Helpline – 0808 1234 555 – to be open 24 hours a day, every day of the year and the number won't show on phone bills. A new webchat service was also introduced and is available 24 hours a day at [www.rsabi.org.uk](http://www.rsabi.org.uk) for confidential chats.

We also offer grants for counselling sessions with demand for this service doubling in the past year, as well as an outbound telephone helpline service for those that are isolated or who are going through a tough time.

Please don't hesitate to contact RSABI if you would like to know more about our support or any of our new initiatives. You'll find the team to be friendly and professional, and all support is confidential.



Let's talk about

# **Financial Harm**

**By Alison Lynch**

North East Division Adult Protection Co-ordinator

**Financial harm is when someone's money or possessions are stolen or they have been defrauded out of property. It comes in many forms and it is often someone known to the person - friends or family - who is the culprit.**



# Let's Talk About Financial Harm

**By Alison Lynch**

North East Division Adult Protection Co-ordinator

**In the first of a three part series Alison Lynch, North East Division Adult Protection Co-ordinator, discusses different types of financial harm and what to look out for.**

Financial harm is when someone's money or possessions are stolen or they have been defrauded out of property. When it is mentioned, it is often in the guise of scams - either over the phone or online - or rogue traders or bogus workmen turning up at the door, carried out by people who are unknown to the victim. In reality, financial harm comes in many forms and it is often someone known to the person - friends or family - who is the culprit.

Friends and family, can have access to much more than a bank account, they can have access to cash or possessions too. Some people might find it easy to disregard the dodgy email or hang up the phone on an unknown person but find it much more difficult, if not impossible, to say no to a son or daughter, spouse or other person they have an emotional tie to. There can be other factors in play too, such as threats – veiled or otherwise – of what might happen if the money is not forthcoming or coercive control where one displays behaviours that exert power over another through fear and control which can be seen in cases of domestic abuse.

## **So what can this include?**

The obvious harm is the appropriation of money. This can be via a bank card for cash withdrawals, purchases in person or online, or a bank account, also for online purchases or other activities such as gambling. It could be as simple as doing someone's shopping, buying 'buy one get one free' items and the 'get one free' item is kept by the shopper.

There is also the misuse of benefits where money is used to buy items that don't benefit the individual, for example, buying a Motability car that is unsuitable for the individual's needs. Persuading someone to change their will in favour of an individual can be another way.

But it isn't just confined to spending someone's money. It can be the selling of property – anything that is owned by an individual – persuading them to sell their house or selling it from under them if they don't have capacity - or taking family heirlooms or other knick-knacks.

**People can be more susceptible to financial harm when they get older. They might not be as able to deal with finances the way they used to and look to others to support them. They can be befriended by someone whose intentions are less than honourable and this can lead to houses being signed over or wills being changed in favour of the befriender.**



# Let's Talk About Financial Harm

**By Alison Lynch**

North East Division Adult Protection Co-ordinator

## What to look for

There are a number of ways to spot potential financial harm, some of which will be easier than others. If there is legitimate access to a bank account check it regularly for payments for goods the individual would or could not use, spends or cash withdrawals from shops or other business, again they could not or would not use. Look for newly set up direct debits – regardless of the amount and note any dwindling of cash.

There might be unpaid bills, these could also be spotted through a bank account, but also by letters. Look for reminders of unpaid bills. Has the electric, gas or phone been disconnected or not being used as much? Is there plenty of food in the house or has there been a reduction in the amount bought or is available? This can be tricky to tell at the moment due to the cost of living crisis but don't be afraid to ask if this is the case. There is support out there regardless of the reason.

Financial harm can have a profound effect on the individual too. From paying bills in plenty of time to being unable to pay them at all can cause untold distress and anxiety. As can being bullied, cajoled or blackmailed into handing over cash.

A reduction in personal care or change in appearance can be another sign as people could be unable to afford food or personal care items, or lack motivation due to depression.

An increase in alcohol use can also be a sign.

Such is the effect of financial harm on individuals, it is suspected to have caused premature death in older people, not to mention suicide / suicidal thoughts in others.

## Who can help?

### The Bank

Contact the bank for assistance. They can block payments, stop cards and even cap the amount of money that can be withdrawn at any one time. If ATM use is an issue then arrangements can be made for over the counter withdrawals only.

### The Police

Misappropriation of funds or property could be a criminal offence.

### Your Local Authority

If the adult is vulnerable and possibly being financially harmed then make a referral to their adult protection unit. An enquiry will be carried out and if appropriate, supports put in place. This could include ensuring benefits are being used for their intended purpose, or assisting in the application for guardianship should the person be assessed as lacking the ability to deal with their own financial affairs.

### Office of the Public Guardian

Can investigate financial harm but only if the person does not have capacity. They can also investigate concerns about financial guardians.

**The important thing is to do something to try and help.**

**For further advice please contact the Harm Reduction Unit at - [NorthEastHarmReduction@scotland.police.uk](mailto:NorthEastHarmReduction@scotland.police.uk)**



### What makes a good padlock?

Hardened boron alloy steel closed shackle. The 'shackle' is protected in the body of the padlock giving cut and twist resistance.

The North East Crime Reduction team always recommend using a 'closed shackle padlock' but what exactly does that mean?

### What makes a good hasp & staple?

Be wary of those that are made from that material - especially the staple (the 'eye' that the padlock fits through) as this is frequently the attack route for thieves.

Quality hasp sets have a vertical staple eye. This allows a closed shackle padlock to hang properly. A horizontal eye means a closed shackle lock will protrude outwards making it more vulnerable to attack with a hammer.



## 1 Back up your data

Think about how much you rely on your data such as customer details, quotes, orders and payment details. Now imagine how long you would be able to operate without them. Rural businesses should take regular backups of their important data and make sure that these backups are recent and can be restored. By doing this you're ensuring your business can still function following the impact of flood, fire, physical damage or theft.

**Identify the data you really need**  
Identify your essential data - the information that your business couldn't function without. Normally this will be documents, photos, emails, contacts and calendars, most of which are kept in just a few common folders on your computer, phone, tablet or network.

**Keep your backup separate from your computer**  
Whether it's on a USB stick, on a separate drive or a separate computer, access to data backups should be restricted so that they:

- are not accessible by staff
- are not permanently connected (either physically or over a local network) to the device holding the original copy.

Ransomware (and other malware) can often move to attached storage automatically, which means any such backup could also be infected. For more resilience you should consider storing your backups in a different location so fire or theft won't result in you losing both copies. Cloud storage solutions are a cost-effective and efficient way of achieving this.

**Consider the cloud**  
You've probably already used cloud storage during your everyday work and personal life without even knowing. Using cloud storage (where a service provider stores your data on their infrastructure) means your data is physically separate from your location. Most providers offer a limited amount of storage space for free and larger storage capacity for minimal costs to small businesses.

**Make backing up part of your everyday business**  
The majority of network or cloud storage solutions now allow you to make backups automatically. Using automated backups saves time and ensures you have the latest version of your files should you need them. When choosing a solution you'll have to consider how much data you need to back up and how quickly you need to be able to access the data following an incident.

# Visit the North East Crime Reduction Team at the Spring Show, Thainstone

The North East Crime Reduction Team will once again be attending the Spring Show on the 1st of March 2023.

Chief Inspector Simon Reid, Area Commander for Moray and Lead for Rural Crime in North East Division will be launching

the NE PARC Rural Crime Strategy for 2023-2025 at the event. Also being launched will be our new North East Division Rural Security Guides. Visit the team to sign up to receive your copies by email and see the latest security devices available including the new SUIP quad bike protector.

# Scam Update

# Spotting Scam emails



Cyber criminals are well aware of current affairs, the day to day events which have a bearing and impact on our daily lives, and they will seek different ways to exploit topical events in an effort to make their Phishing attempts more convincing – so we have to remain vigilant as they continue their scamming efforts in 2023.

Phishing emails will appear as being genuine and the scammers will either include a link that will download malware to your computer or direct you to a fake website asking for bank details or other personal information.

Dealing with a scam email can be frustrating, annoying and sometimes stressful but there is help and guidance available. The following information is from our trusted partners at the NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre).

## **How to spot a scam email, text message or call**

The NCSC has the power to investigate and take down scam email addresses and web sites.

Reporting a scam email to the NCSC is free and only takes minutes. You can do this by sending the scam email, even if you only suspect it as being a scam, to **[report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)**

Since this service was introduced in 2020, the UK public has reported nearly 16 million scam emails and this has resulted in 198,000 scam email and website being take down.

The NCSC is urging the public to follow its' Cyber Aware guidance which will support you, protect your online accounts from scammers and help you protect your personal and financial information.

**[www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk/cyberaware/home)**

Ofgem is also working closely with the NCSC to help protect customers as they are aware scammers will try to capitalise on the energy crisis.

They have created additional support with their Stop – Check – Protect guidance.

**[www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/avoid-and-report-energy-scams](http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/avoid-and-report-energy-scams)**



# Wildlife Matters

By PC Hannah Corbett

In Scotland Bats and their roosts are protected by law under The Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994. It is an offence to deliberately or recklessly capture, injure or kill a bat, deliberately or recklessly harass a bat or disturb a bat at a roost and damage or destroy a roost or obstruct access to it.



There are 10 species of bat found commonly in Scotland - Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Brown long-eared, Daubenton's, Natterer's, Whiskered, Brandt's, Noctule and Leisler's.

All of these are insectivores – they only eat insects. One tiny pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 insects a night so bats are great for keeping bugs away from crops and gardens.

Bats do not make nests using materials for bedding, instead they like to roost, generally in buildings, bridges, trees and hedgerows. However a roost is any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection and they are often very loyal to these roosts, returning each year to them. This means that roosts are protected by law all year round whether there are bats there or not.

Bats do not cause damage to buildings in order to roost, instead, they use structures that are already available and take advantage of cracks and crevices in the buildings. Many home owners and tenants have bats in their property which they are completely unaware of as they do not nibble or gnaw wood or wires and do not bring in bedding material or food making them fine houseguests.

If you are planning construction or maintenance works then the presence of bats should not be ruled out and it is worthwhile knowing what signs to look out for such as the presence of droppings. During May to September watch them leaving a property around sunset and later re-entering. More information on this can be found at [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

Bats are extremely vulnerable to the activities of humans especially during hibernation in the winter and throughout the maternity season (between May and August). Mothers may abandon their young if disturbed which would have a detrimental impact on local bat populations.

If you know that a building has bats or suspect that it does then consideration for the bats should be included at the start of the planning process to avoid committing any offences.

Their presence doesn't mean that work cannot be carried out but it does need to be carried out in a way that doesn't disturb them or destroys the roost. This could be:

- **Avoiding working at certain times of the year**
- **Avoiding using certain chemicals**
- **Retaining or creating access points for the bats or installing bat boxes**
- **Having an expert oversee the works.**

If the works cannot take place without contravening the law then a specific licence will need to be applied for from Nature Scot. If a licence is issued then it is a legal document that must be followed; failure to do so will result in offences.

If you do come across a bat then do not touch or handle it with bare hands. A small proportion of bats in the UK carry a type of rabies virus which can be transmitted through a bite, scratch or through contact between its saliva and an open wound. If you do need to handle one then wear protective gloves and wrap as much as the bat as possible in a cloth. If you get bitten or scratched by a bat wash the wound immediately and thoroughly and make contact with your doctor as soon as you can.

*Further information on bats, local bat groups, guidance and advice can be found at:*

#### **Bat Conservation Trust**

[www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)  
0345 1300 228  
[enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)

#### **Nature Scot**

[www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot)  
01463 725364  
[licensing@nature.scot](mailto:licensing@nature.scot)

In a new series we will bring you first hand experiences from victims of rural crime from across the North East.

Bob owns a farm in North Aberdeenshire which he runs with his wife Morag. Bob needed some new machinery and like most farmers turned to the internet to see what he could find. After some Google searching he came across a company based in Surrey called 'Shire Farm Machinery.'

Checking their available stock list he identified several items that he wanted to purchase including a JCB Telli Handler, Ifor Williams Trailer and a tipping trailer. The total for everything he ordered was £14,900.

Bob placed his order online and paid £2,900 as a deposit which he transferred from his bank. He then received an invoice for the balance and an email confirming the items would be delivered one week later.

A month later and after trying unsuccessfully to contact 'Shire Farm Machinery' by telephone 14 times Bob suspected he had been scammed and went to his bank for advice. Bob's bank told him he had most likely been scammed and to report the incident to the Police.

**Bob received no machinery and lost £2,900.**

### How could this incident have been prevented?

**If the equipment price seems too good to be true then it probably is** – check the market value and find a legitimate reason the price is so low before progressing.

**Ensure the seller has a valid address and telephone number.** If possible, visit them at their home, or business premises. Be suspicious of anyone offering to meet halfway at a services or car park.

**Using a search engine like Google can give you all sorts of information on a company including reviews about them.** Sites like Trustpilot and Google reviews can reveal a lot about a company before you interact with them. Do not use this as your only method of checks, this is just another tool to use.

**Only buy from a trustworthy source.** Buying from a trusted dealer can help to reduce the risk of being scammed and can also make it easier to get redress or have any problems rectified.

**Many fraudulent companies will ask you to pay via bank transfer.** If you do this and it turns out to be fraudulent you'll struggle to get your money back.

**If you've paid by credit or debit card you do have a chance of getting your money back.** Usually it makes most sense to pay by credit card. That way a dodgy company can't clear out your bank account and you'll also get more consumer protection.

**Don't be rushed into the wrong decision.** If you're unsure, walk away until you have carried out more research and checks.



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**POILEAS ALBA**

## What's happening in Aberdeenshire & Moray

### **Arbuthnott**

On 13th December a rural property in the Arbuthnott area was broken into and jewellery and ornaments stolen.

### **Huntly**

On 13th December a property in the Gartly area had 2000 litres of kerosene stolen.

### **Mintlaw**

On 13th December a Yamaha quad bike valued at £3000 was stolen from a farm between St Fergus and Mintlaw.

### **Turriff**

On 24th December two geese and a lamb were stolen from a rural property near Turriff.

On 4th January 2 hay rings valued at £360 were stolen from a farm near Turriff.

### **Peterhead**

On 3rd January a number of chickens were killed by a dog in a livestock worrying incident at a farm near Peterhead.

On 6th January a quantity of brass pipe work valued at £40,000 was stolen from a builders merchants in Peterhead.

### **Newburgh**

A woman has been charged following an incident at the Forvie Nature Reserve whereby a seal pup was bitten and injured by a dog on 5th January.

### **Westhill**

A male has been charged with various offences after attempting to steal a motor vehicle from a farm in the Westhill area on 12th January.

### **Stonehaven**

On 16th January a window was broken in a property in the Fetteresso area in an attempted housebreaking. The intruders fled the scene on being disturbed by the occupier.

A number of lambs were killed in a livestock worrying incident in the Fetteresso area near Stonehaven. 3 lambs were killed and a further four received serious injuries in the attack which is believed to have happened between 24th and 25th January.

### **Newmachar**

On 16th January a Toyota Hi Lux was stolen from a farm near Newmachar.

### **Aboyne**

On 13th January three bull calves valued at over £9,000 were stolen from an open barn at a farm in the Ballogie area

### **Fraserburgh**

On 15th January kerosene was stolen from a rural property in the Fraserburgh area.

### **Banchory**

Between 18th and 22nd January a Honda 420 quad bike and box trailer were stolen from a barn in the Durris area.

### **Balmedie**

On 2nd February a Karcher power washer was stolen from a farm near Balmedie.

### **Keith**

On 3rd January a livestock trailer was stolen and subsequently recovered from a farm near Keith.

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# Rural Watch SCOTLAND

**We aim to ALERT you to:**



**Local crimes and emerging trends that may impact you and your community**



**Information on safety, resilience and community wellbeing**



**Prevention tactics to protect your home and business**



**Approved "Secured by Design" products and recommendations**



**Advice on how to secure your property, equipment and machinery**



**The opportunity to share best practice**



**Rural Watch  
SCOTLAND**

Delivered by Neighbourhood Watch Scotland



**SPARC**

SCOTTISH PARTNERSHIP AGAINST RURAL CRIME

**Sign up to Alerts  
to register**

[www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk](http://www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk)



# Keeping Our Rural Communities Safe

Police Scotland's North East Division covers rural and urban areas in Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. The division has five territorial command areas which have their own dedicated Area Commander, who is responsible for the daily policing function. Each command area is served by a number of community policing teams whose activities are built around the needs of the local community. These teams respond to local calls and look for long term solutions to key issues. They are assisted by the division's Crime Reduction Unit who deliver against

Force and local priorities in a number of areas, including physical and social crime prevention, supporting and enhancing community engagement and creating and sustaining strong and effective partnership working.

## Website

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)

## Twitter

[www.twitter.com/NorthEPolice](http://www.twitter.com/NorthEPolice)

## Facebook

[www.facebook.com/  
NorthEastPoliceDivision](http://www.facebook.com/NorthEastPoliceDivision)

## North East Division Crime Reduction Team

### Moray (Keith)

PC Richard Russell  
[Richard.russell@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Richard.russell@scotland.police.uk)

### Aberdeen City (Nigg)

PC Mark Irvine  
[Mark.irvine@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Mark.irvine@scotland.police.uk)

### Aberdeenshire (Stonehaven)

PC Mike Urquhart  
[Michael.urquhart@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Michael.urquhart@scotland.police.uk)

### Wildlife Crime Officer (Keith)

PC Hannah Corbett  
[Hannah.corbett@scotland.police.uk](mailto:Hannah.corbett@scotland.police.uk)



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