



Priory Close Neighbourhood Watch

Website <http://pctnhw.yolasite.com>

Warning over cashpoint crooks

Essex Police have issued CCTV images in a warning over cashpoint crooks who are tricking bank customers out of hundreds of pounds. Thieves were caught on camera while stealing £350 from a man withdrawing money from an ATM at a Santander branch in Loughton. The video clip from the CCTV is now being released to warn all cashpoint users to be extra vigilant when using bank machines. The following is illustrated using still pictures from the video.

The video shows how the victim was approached by two men who stood either side of him.



Meanwhile a third member of the gang started chatting with a woman waiting to use the machine to prevent her seeing what was happening.

Moments before the cash was about to emerge from the machine one of the thieves, who was standing on a hidden £10 note, flicks the note beneath the user then taps him on the shoulder to say he had dropped the cash.



When the victim bent to pick up the note the second man grabbed the £350 from the machine and walked away.



The victim, a 57-year-old man from Loughton, was not immediately aware of the theft and thought that the cash machine was faulty.

Learning Points

When you are using an ATM there is a tendency to focus purely on the machine as you carry out your transaction. Be aware of your surroundings. If anybody is standing so close to you that they can see your hands don't enter your pin number. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable discontinue the transaction and walk away

Always cover your hand when you enter your pin number.

If someone tries to gain your attention in any way as you are carrying out a transaction ignore them. Concentrate on the machine and retrieving your bank card and cash safely as a priority. If they are genuine they will still be there when your bank card and money is safely back in your pocket.



IMPORTANT WARNING FROM WEST LANCASHIRE POLICE

West Lancashire Police are warning of an issue which is currently of concern.

There has been a significant increase in the number of cases of sheds and garages being broken into overnight. There have so far been over 19 reported incidents in West Lancashire during this last month. Please be vigilant and pay extra attention to the security of your sheds and garages and the property within – especially pedal cycles and high value equipment.

Appeal from your co-ordinator

Anyone that receives notification of issues via the newsletter like this one and has access to a computer connected to the internet, can have a much better service if they sign up to the email notification.

The email service is linked to the PCTNHW website that contains additional information that cannot be reasonably fitted into a newsletter like this.

It is also better for the environment as we can save paper use.

You can sign up on the <http://pctnhw.yolasite.com/> website, (*note no www.*), or send an email to pctnhw@feeolamail.com .

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