

OFFICIAL

Commercial breaks in Southampton

There has been an increase in non dwelling burglaries across Southampton this year (2016).

The data below shows that the sector most affected is Southampton Central which has seen an increase where other sectors have seen a decrease.

To June 2016 there were 123 YTD 2016 occurrences in Southampton Central sector, commercial breaks (72%), non-commercial breaks (28%).

Of the 77 YTD 2015 occurrences in Southampton Central, 64% were commercial breaks and 36% were non-commercial breaks.

BURGLARY NON-DWELLING CRIME

Latest Refresh Date 07/07/2016

		01/04/2016 - 30/06/2016	01/04/2015 - 30/06/2015	DIFFERENCE
SOUTHAMPTON CENTRAL	April	45	26	19
	May	35	27	8
	June	43	24	19
SOUTHAMPTON CENTRAL		123	77	46

SOUTHAMPTON EAST	April	26	56	-30
	May	33	31	2
	June	23	26	-3
SOUTHAMPTON EAST		82	113	-31

SOUTHAMPTON NORTH	April	46	33	13
	May	55	43	12
	June	21	47	-26
SOUTHAMPTON NORTH		122	123	-1

SOUTHAMPTON	April	39	43	-4
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WEST				
	May	31	51	-20
	June	37	39	-2
SOUTHAMPTON WEST		107	133	-26
	Total	434	446	-12

A number of problem profiles have been completed which have driven patrol activity.

Key findings of the latest problem profile included:

- Operation Turbulent has been defined as a series of 140 overnight commercial breaks targeting cash, cash boxes, tills and safes. Offences have been occurring since January 2016 in the Southampton Central sector with a small overspill into Portswood and Shirley neighbourhoods.
- January to March experienced the highest number of offences with a small reduction in commercial burglaries between April and June.
- Offices have been targeted most frequently in this series. Other vulnerable locations include restaurants, hairdressers, cafes, pubs/nightclubs, dentists, children's nurseries and beauty salons. 17 businesses have been targeted more than once in this series.
- Research shows the total cost of all property stolen in this series equates to over £121,000.
- Bargate has been identified as the most vulnerable location for commercial burglary having experienced 82 offences.
- In 28 offences safes have been targeted of which 12 safes have been taken from the scene; this would imply that a form of transport is being used to aid the offender's getaway.
- Forcing rear fire doors to premises with a crowbar or similar implement is the most common MO used.

Recent weeks have seen that these breaks have decreased to almost zero, however the reason for this is not clear.

Activity to date

Allocation of dedicated investigation team pursuing potential suspects and identifying investigative opportunities such as forensic, property, CCTV and intelligence development.

Regularly reviewed and discussed at district level as a priority alongside tactical meetings to review activity and align operational focus.

Working in partnership with SoBAC, Solent Uni and other City Centre contacts to identify vulnerable premises, offer support and advice and review target hardening.

Identify and visit and follow up on that visit to all premises and victims that are repeat victims.

Compile briefing sheets with updated information to ensure clear and directed activity from officers engaged on patrols.

Identifying and following up on suspicious incident calls, non crime reports and CCTV reports of suspicious persons or activity.

Receiving support from other departments (such as Integrated Offender Management) who have incorporated this issue into their activity.

Support from Corporate communications in delivering key messages.

Conclusion

Activity around landlords and other partners working together has so far been limited.

Cases could decrease if premises were to consider improving security measures such as locks, audible alarms / alarm companies, lighting and CCTV. Some may be repeatedly targeted due to limited security whilst others keep cash and valuables on the premises overnight.

Investigation teams continue to follow up a number of enquiries to identify potential suspects related to similar / like crime types.

A Heydari
1 August 2016