

Beating burglary – register and reduce the risk

Today's Engaging comprises an open letter from Nottinghamshire's Assistant Chief Constable Susannah Fish about how you can play a part in reducing and preventing burglary in Nottinghamshire by making your home and valuables more secure.

We invite you to share the contents of the letter with your family, friends and colleagues so that, together, we can make life more difficult for thieves.

Open Letter

"Burglary is one of the most serious and disturbing crimes we face as a community. When someone breaks into a home the impact it has on victims is very distressing. Nottinghamshire Police recognises this.

"In an effort to reduce the number of people affected by burglary, we are giving advice and guidance on ways you can deter thieves by making your property more secure.

"This is not in place of traditional crime prevention advice you may have previously received. The best advice to keep your property safe, whether in your home or your car, is to always keep doors and windows locked, place valuable items out of sight and switch on your alarm whenever you go out.

"The purpose of this letter however, is to highlight another crime prevention tactic you can use in the comfort of your own home.

"I want to recommend **Immobilise**, a property registration scheme that is free to use and can be accessed by simply logging on to www.immobilise.com If you don't have a computer at home, visit your local police station for help.

"For those of us old enough to remember the practice of marking all our electrical items with an invisible ultra-violet pen, this is the 21st Century equivalent. Immobilise allows you to register anything with a unique serial number, such as televisions, satellite navigation systems, mobile telephones, Mp3 players and bicycles.

"Displaying the Immobilise sticker in your window acts as a deterrent to would-be thieves. But if you are still unlucky enough to have your property stolen, registering with Immobilise can help improve your chances of it being returned to you.

"I would also like to remind you of Crimestoppers, which you can call anonymously if you know someone who is committing burglary or selling stolen goods. You could also be in line for a cash reward. The number is free to call and is 0800 555 111."

