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DISTRACTION BURGLARY

On the 28th November at approx 21:35 a male called at a property in Long Braddocks, Writtle and asked if the owner had called a Taxi. Another male went to the rear of the property and attempted to get in but was disturbed.

The Chelmsford area has not had many distraction burglaries in the last few weeks, but we must all be mindful of callers at our doors.

Those who commit the above type of crime can come in many different disguises and give a multitude of excuses as to why there all calling or need entry to your homes. Please treat everyone who calls at your door with suspicion. If you are not expecting anyone be very mindful of opening the door. These incidents happen at any time of day or night.

Always check out any person who calls. Just because they have an ID card round their neck does not mean they are genuine. Always ask to see their card and check that they are genuine by calling the company they say that they are calling from. Their numbers are in the telephone directories. If they are genuine they will wait.

This is just a few examples of what bogus callers might say when they call.

“I am from the water board and I need to check your supply”

“There is a leak down the road and I need to turn of your water supply”

NEVER LET ANYBODY INTO YOUR HOME WHO MENTION THAT THEY ARE FROM THE WATERBOARD – THE WATERBOARD DOES NOT EXIST.

If any of the utility services need to come to your home they will send you a letter beforehand to say that some one will be calling.

“I am working down the road at one of your neighbours and they said you might need some work or gardening carried out.”

“I am from the local council and need to check your property”

“We are doing emergency gas repairs down the road and need to check for any problems” Often bogus callers will look out for areas that have road works in operation and use that as an excuse to call on you.

On occasions bogus callers claim that they are Police Officers.

The most important message to all is not to just open the door to anyone. THINK, STOP, CHAIN, CHECK Always lock your back door before answering the front door. Always put a chain on.

If you think that a bogus caller has called at your door, report it to the police immediately – dial 999. Try to give the police a description of the caller.