

# **THEFT WARNING**

## **PURSES & WALLETS**

### **Do not display this in public areas.**

Please bring this to the attention of the staff working at your premises as offenders are suspected of committing offences in Avon and Somerset in recent weeks at Doctors Surgeries.

A group of thieves, specialising in the theft of purses, wallets and the subsequent fraudulent use of stolen credit cards have been operating in recent months.

Their method is simple; the thieves will dress smartly and often wear an NHS / Council style lanyard. They are also known to wear disguises such as wigs and glasses. They will wait around the waiting area or the access controlled entrance to the administration area until they are able to follow a staff member through the door. This is known as 'tailgating'. Once inside they will check offices until they find one that is unoccupied that has an unattended handbag or jacket. They will then steal the bank card and ID document such as a driving licence. If confronted they will often give a cover story such as being a visiting nurse from another trust, administrators or checking fire extinguishers.

**After a short while the victim will receive a telephone call from a well-spoken male or female who will explain that they are from the fraud department of the victim's bank.**

**They will often know the victims personal details from their driving licence or receipts from the purse or wallet, they will use this information to appear genuine.**

After a very convincing conversation regarding a fraudster using the card, they will ask the victim for their PIN.

Once in possession of the PIN a group member will use an ATM to check the balance of the account and will also remove cash.

Should you become a victim of this type of offence **DO NOT GIVE OUT YOUR PIN** take the name/number of the caller and ring your bank and the Police.

If you are a recent victim of this type or aware of any suspicious activity at your premises, could you email the officer below.

**Please ensure that your personal property is locked away and out of sight.**

**Dave WILLIAMS**

Controlled Drugs Officer

**Serious Organised Crime Stream FIB**



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