

Reigate and Banstead Police Newsletter

Issue 32
March 2026



Inspector Lyndsey Whatley

Catalytic Converter Thefts



Dear Residents

We are seeing a rise in catalytic converter thefts across East Surrey. We have reported a number of others in our Weekly Police updates over the last few weeks. In our Borough during February 2026 there were 9 reports of catalytic converter thefts.

A catalytic converter is a metal device that sits under your car near the engine and helps to clean exhaust fumes. Your car insurance isn't valid without one, and they're crucial to the smooth running of your vehicle.

Catalytic converters are stolen because they contain valuable metals such as platinum, rhodium or palladium. Hybrid vehicles such as Lexus are particularly at risk because their catalytic converters are less frequently exposed to hot exhaust gases and the metals stay in better condition for longer, making them more valuable when sold on.

To deter potential thieves, park close to building entrances or the nearest road in public car parks, so that your car is more visible to passers-by and less likely to be an attractive target for thieves. Consider investing in a video doorbell, CCTV and motion sensor lighting for the front of your property, this can double as a burglary deterrent. If you see what you think is a catalytic converter theft in progress (car jacked up on the street or in car parks, loud sound of metal being cut underneath), do not approach those involved. We have previously received reports of members of the public being assaulted by thieves and seriously injured when they tried to intervene. Call 999 from a safe distance and give us as much detail as you can instead.



A 39-year-old man has been charged in connection to an assault in Horley last month. John Demiro, 39 (DOB: 21/04/1986) of no fixed address, was charged with one count of causing grievous bodily harm (GBH), attempted robbery, theft and trespassing on a railway. The charges relate to incidents on the morning of Sunday, 18 January, when officers were called to a concern for safety near the pond on Riverside and then reports of an assault in Costa Coffee on Victoria Road.

Demiro has been remanded in custody to appear at Guildford Crown Court on Thursday, 19 March.



Officers attended reports of an assault at around 4:20pm in Redhill Town Centre on Wednesday, 25th February 2026.

A man in his 20s has been arrested on suspicion of Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm and is currently on police bail.

If you have any information that might assist our investigation, please DM us quoting PR/45260022558 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Feedback

Your feedback on the Newsletter is important to us.

Please contact me at Simon.Morris@surrey.police.uk

Simon Morris 20789
Community Engagement Volunteer
Reigate and Banstead Police SNT



In this Months Newsletter

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New to the Borough – Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET)

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET) is a new team set up as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee. There are 3 newly formed NET teams in Surrey covering the north, east and west of the County.

The Eastern NET team has one Sergeant and 8 Police Constables. The team is made up of proactively minded officers, some of whom have a background in neighbourhood policing. The team has specialist skills which make them effective for proactively targeting criminals and keeping the community safe. The NET are primarily formed to assist Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) with any prolific issues or offenders which require targeted resources, including shoplifting, drug dealing, closure orders and people carrying weapons.

The team started on 8th January 2026 and in those 7 weeks we have :

- 39 arrests for many offences including: prolific shoplifting, burglaries, domestic abuse, weapons offences and even murder.
- We have carried out 108 stop searches, many of which have resulted in arrests or community resolutions.
- We have issued 19 community resolutions (mainly for drugs possession for personal use).
- We have completed returns for 52 patrols in crime hotspot areas.
- We have put in 91 intelligence submissions which helps paint a bigger picture and develop warrants and other investigations.
- We have been involved in Live Facial Recognition operations in Redhill, some plain clothes shoplifting patrols and some operations working with British Transport Police at Redhill station.

These results are across East Surrey so include results from Mole Valley, Epsom and Tandridge as well. A good portion of these returns are from Reigate and Banstead borough as it is one of our busier areas.

Max Ambler 40962
Police Sergeant
East Neighbourhood Enforcement Team



Be In the Know!



‘In the Know’ in February 2026

You can sign up to [In the Know](#) to find out what is happening in your area: witness appeals, crime updates, crime prevention advice and news. This also includes the weekly Crime Update from Reigate and Banstead, Safer Neighbourhood Team

Apart from our Weekly Police Update and Monthly Newsletter, these are the Surrey Police reports posted on ‘In the Know’ during February 2026. If you missed any of the reports, shown below, then please go to the the Surrey Police Website. See page 4 for contact details.

- 25/02/2026 Coordinated crackdown on burglary across Surrey – Surrey Police
- 12/02/2026 Distraction Theft Alert - surrey Police
- 11/02/2026 Latest Fraud Newsletter – Surrey Police
- 10/02/2026 Serial burglar jailed – Surrey Police

In addition updates from: Fraud Team, Trading Standards, Neighbourhood Watch and the Crime Commissioner



Securing your vehicle to prevent theft, break ins and damage.

During the month of February 49 reports were received and recorded as Vehicle Crime, Keyless Car and Catalytic Converter Thefts, in the Borough. The list below shows that there were 5 vehicles stolen, not including the reports of 10 Keyless Car thefts. There were 8 vehicle break ins and some of these resulted in the theft of items. There were also 9 reports of catalytic converter.

Please report vehicle crime, contact details can be found on page 4 of the Newsletter. Please see the links below where you can find crime prevention advice on how to secure your vehicle.

Of the 49 reports -

- 5 Stolen vehicle (cars and trucks) 2 vehicles recovered
- 10 Keyless car theft
- 4 Attempted theft of a car
- 8 Vehicle break ins, some resulting in theft
- 6 Vehicle interference, some with damage.
- 2 Number plates stolen
- 1 Theft of spare wheel/tyre
- 4 Attempted Break ins
- 9 Catalytic Converter Thefts

Further crime prevention advice can be found at:

- [Car crime | Neighbourhood Watch Network \(ourwatch.org.uk\)](#)
- [Preventing car and vehicle theft | Crime Prevention | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)
- [Secured by Design - Vehicle Crime](#)
- [Prevent theft from a vehicle | Crime Prevention | Police.uk \(www.police.uk\)](#)
- [Secured by Design - Vans & Tool Theft](#)



StreetSafe is a service that allows you to report safety concerns in public places without giving us your name (anonymously). This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you.

Please note: StreetSafe is not for reporting crimes or emergencies. If you witness a crime please report it to us [online](#). If you're unsure whether something is a crime or not, read our advice. Examples of situations that should be reported to StreetSafe include a poorly lit alleyway that makes you feel unsafe or a park with broken equipment that poses a safety hazard.

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>



Information Corner



Crime statistics –

December 2025 to February 2026

Offence	Dec-25	Jan -26	Feb-26
Residential Burglaries	32 (9)	39 (15)	14 (7)
Keyless Car Theft	5	5	10

(-) Actual residential burglaries only, not including - Attempted, Garage and Outbuilding Burglaries

There is a decrease in the number of actual residential burglaries in February 2026, following an increase in January 2026. Keyless Car theft in February 2026 is showing an increase from January 2026, Records show that there were 11 reports of Personal Fraud (scams) in February 2026.



Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association (SWNA)

Neighbourhood Watch is about people getting together with their neighbours to take action to reduce crime.

They're community initiatives owned and run by their members which are supported by the police but not owned by them, although we sometimes run them. They work by developing a close relationship between community members and the local police.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes can:

- cut crime and the opportunities for crime
- help and reassure those who live in the area
- encourage neighbourliness and closer communities

How to join a Watch scheme

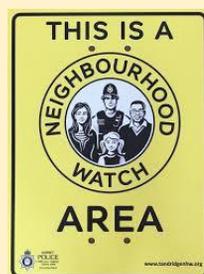
Go to [Neighbourhood Watch](https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/surrey) to find out what groups are active in your area and to register to join.

You can also find and contact your local Neighbourhood Watch Association or scheme coordinator via the same website for:

- more information on how the scheme works
- the benefits of the scheme
- advice on running a scheme in your local area

Surrey Neighbourhood Watch Association link:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/surrey>



The Surrey Police Website has lots of information and advice. It is there to support you.

<https://www.surrey.police.uk>

How to report a crime or incident:

Emergency: call 999

Non Emergency: call 101 or report online or via live chat at: www.surrey.police.uk

To contact your local team (not for reporting purposes) email:

ReigateandBanstead@surrey.police.uk

You can pass information to us directly via 101, online

via <https://www.surrey.police.uk/ro/report/> or anonymously via Crimestoppers 0800555111,

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Follow us:

Our Facebook is Reigate and (Surrey Police) and our twitter

[@ReigateBeat](https://twitter.com/ReigateBeat)



SURREY POLICE
With you, making
Surrey safer
www.surrey.police.uk

Contact: Simon Morris 20789
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