



# *An open letter*

from  
Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson

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## BASSETLAW EDITION

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YOU may have seen articles in the news recently about a review of the current policing structure in England and Wales.

Due to increasing challenges and demands placed on the police service, it was inevitable that something would have to change.

As this is still in its very early stages, I have few details to give you at the moment, but any changes will affect all 43 forces and not just Nottinghamshire.

Local policing is structured nationally on divisions such as the one I command (known as a Basic Command Unit). These units are seen as the foundations of local policing and will be unaffected by amalgamations at force level.

Please be assured that I will keep you as up-to-date as possible.

## Stop, Chain, Check

I am saddened to have to tell you this month that an 80-year-old woman, living in Worksop, died shortly after being the victim of what we call a 'distraction' burglary.

The woman was visited by a man who claimed to be from the council and asked to check her water.

He asked her to run the water in the kitchen and stay there until the water turned blue, whilst he checked the rest of the property.

After he had left, the woman discovered he had stolen her savings and jewellery of sentimental value.

Her two sons said her health immediately deteriorated following the burglary and she died shortly afterwards in hospital.

These criminals that prey on elderly people are callous and heartless.

We are unable to prove that the burglary led directly to the woman's deterioration – but it is clear that the crime left her worried and afraid.

The Stop, Chain, Check message is a simple, but effective measure that we can all learn from. Please reiterate this message to as many people as you can, particularly those who may be vulnerable or living alone.

If somebody calls at your door:

STOP - Think, are you expecting anyone?

CHAIN – Secure the chain before you open the door.

CHECK – Always ask for ID and contact the company to ensure the caller is a member of staff and is carrying out work in the area. If you are unsure, always call the police and never let anybody into your home until you are absolutely certain that they are genuine.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE  
**POLICE**

### **Division sees dramatic increase in public satisfaction**

I am delighted to share with you the latest results of an independent survey carried out in June on a random selection of victims of crime in Bassetlaw.

The figures revealed that the level of customer satisfaction from the police service has increased dramatically in this area.

The satisfaction results were:

- Ease of Contact 93.2%
- Action taken by the Police 83.8%
- Being Kept Informed 68.2%.

These results are the best in the force and are a direct result of officers increasing the quality of their investigations and ensuring that people are told what is happening in their case.

We have worked hard in this area, and will continue to do so, to ensure you get the best level of service we can provide.

### **CCTV is not 'big brother'**

I've spoken to many people about their views on CCTV and I'm always surprised how much its values and benefits are underestimated.

Many people think it is purely a way of 'watching' the public and intrudes on their privacy.

The CCTV system in Worksop and Retford has led to some excellent results in terms of detecting crime and preventing it from happening at all.

I am minded of some research by Professor Ken Pease entitled 'Opportunity Makes The Thief' which showed that most offenders only commit crime where the opportunity presents itself.

It went on the show that where the opportunity was reduced by the presence of a third party, in this case a CCTV camera, there was nothing to suggest that the offender would simply go elsewhere to commit crime.

My view is that we should all be reassured by the presence of the cameras across the district.

It's not a 'big brother' issue. The teams that operate CCTV are very professional and work closely with my staff. Thankfully, this ensures that those who do commit crime within their view are quickly arrested and the best evidence presented to the courts.

**Divisional Commander for Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood  
Chief Superintendent Richard Johnson**

