

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 16 August 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Second man jailed for Pokémon burglaries

A second man has been jailed after admitting stealing more than £71,000 worth of stock from shops specialising in collectable Pokémon cards.

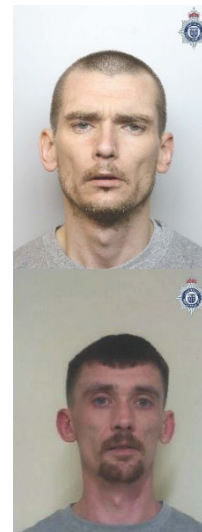
Shane Johnson, 37, of no fixed address appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on 13 August after pleading guilty to burglary with intent to steal at an earlier hearing. He was sentenced to 45 months and four weeks in prison. His brother, Keith Johnson, 33, from Brookwood Avenue, Birmingham appeared at Birmingham Crown Court on 2 July to be sentenced after admitting the same offences. He was sentenced to 29 months in prison.

On the evening of 8 April 2026, the pair targeted Celestial Collectables on Lovely Lane in Warrington. The shop specialises in rare and high value Pokémon trading cards along with memorabilia and other condition items which are limited in numbers or rare to collectors. Police were alerted to the break-in following reports the shop door window was being smashed and the shop was being ransacked. On arrival officers entered the shop through the broken doorway and discovered Pokémon cards strewn across the floor.

Crime Scene Investigators recovered a crowbar from the scene which had been used to smash the glass in the front door and smash shelving and cabinets. The items stolen were mainly Pokémon cards to the value of £62,000 and damaged caused to the shop itself was in excess of £3,000. CCTV showed a white Ford transit van was the vehicle used in the burglary but was on cloned number plates. Further enquiries revealed the van had travelled from Birmingham to Warrington on the day of the burglary. Prior to this it had been captured parked up outside Keith's address. This was later found following the burglary on East Avenue in Stockton Heath with a number of Pokémon cards, a box with the shop's logo on it along with tools and items for going equipped to a burglary.

CCTV enquiries showed that the van had broken down and the brothers had to push the van along London Road in Warrington onto East Avenue where there was another waiting van which had travelled up from Birmingham. They transferred their haul into the other van which was later found parked up near Shane's address. The brothers then struck at The Graded Gallery in Rugby and again they used a crowbar to break into the shop and cause significant damage to the interior as they stole various items including Pokémon cards. They then left in the Nissan X-Trail. The total stock stolen and damaged caused was more than £9,000.

Following the burglary West Midlands Police informed Cheshire colleagues that another burglary had taken place in Warwickshire and the Nissan X-Trail involved in the burglary was parked outside Keith's. West Midlands officers attended the address to arrest the two men, and a search of the property recovered the keys to the van used in the Warrington burglary along with stolen property



belonging to Celestial Collectables along with the keys to the Nissan X-Trail and more stole property from other commercial burglaries. The clothes they were wearing at the time of the Warrington burglary, including Shane's trainers were also recovered when the men were arrested.

DC Hannah Smith said: *"The overwhelming evidence collected through our extensive enquiries put them at both crime scenes giving them no choice but to plead guilty. The brothers will now have to pay the price for their part in their criminal Pokémon enterprise."*

Man convicted following fatal collision in Cheshire

A man from Whitworth has been convicted of multiple offences following a fatal collision on the M6 in Cheshire.

Daniel Barlow was found guilty of causing a death by dangerous driving and two counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, following a three-day trial at Chester Crown Court which concluded on Friday 14 August 2026. The 30-year-old of Railway Close, Facit, Whitworth, has been bailed to be sentenced on Friday 25 September.

During the trial, the court heard that on the evening of Friday 2 December 2022, Barlow was driving a white DAF truck on the northbound carriageway of the M6 between junction 16 and 17, after completing a number of deliveries in the Birmingham area. At the same time, Chloe Williams, 19, was one of two passengers in a grey Volkswagen Polo which was being driven by her partner. The trio were travelling to a concert in Manchester. As they approached junction 17 for Sandbach, the Polo came to a stop in lane one due to heavy traffic. Barlow was also driving in lane one, but he failed to react to the stationary traffic in time and collided with rear of the VW Polo.

Subsequent analysis showed that he had been travelling at a constant speed of 55mph along the carriageway and did not attempt to stop until 0.25-0.5 seconds before the collision, despite having a clear view of the traffic ahead. The impact of the collision caused serious injuries to the occupants of the VW Polo, and they were all taken to hospital. Sadly, despite the best efforts of all those involved, Chloe later passed away. The two other occupants of the Polo both sustained a number of serious injuries, including broken legs and a fractured skull. Their injuries have led to life changing consequences for both men, including memory loss and long-lasting pain. Barlow was arrested following the collision and during questioning he was unable to offer any explanation as to why he didn't slow down prior to the collision.

Following the verdict, Inspector Andrew Dennison of the Cheshire Police Serious Collision Investigation Unit, said: *"Chloe was a bright young woman who was just about to embark on her dream career with British Airways, but her life was cut short because of the actions of Barlow. Our investigation showed that Chloe's death was entirely preventable, Barlow had ample time to react and slow down. However, he was clearly not concentrating on his driving, and his vehicle became a deadly weapon."*

"This case demonstrates the importance of ensuring that all road users pay full attention when driving on our roads, as just one lapse really can mean the difference between life and death. My thoughts at this time remain with Chloe's family and while nothing will ever bring her back, I hope

that the guilty verdict will provide them with some closure and allow them to move forward with their lives.”

Residents urged to be vigilant following spate of thefts from vehicles in Northwich

Officers are warning residents in Northwich to remain vigilant and ensure their vehicles are secure following a spate of thefts from vehicles in the town.

Over the recent days, police have been called to a number of reports of thefts from insecure motor vehicles and garages in the Winnington area. These include incidents on Alderley Road, Penrhyn Road, Woodlea Court, Foxendale Close and Blossom Heights. A number of items have been stolen, including a large quantity of cash.

Police Constable Daniel Lee of Northwich Proactive CID said: *“This investigation is in the early stages, and we’re committed to doing all that we can to trace the people responsible. From our initial enquiries we believe that thefts were all conducted by two to three men who have been attempting to access insecure vehicles and garages in the Moss Road and Firdale Park area. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we’re asking residents in the area to check their CCTV and doorbell footage to see if they have any video footage which may aid our investigation. We’re also urging residents in the area to make sure their vehicles and garages are kept secure at all times.”*

Anyone with any information or footage which may aid the investigation is urged to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2395756. Information can also be reported to Crimestoppers, anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or via the Crimestoppers website.

Man charged with robbery and theft offences

A man has been charged in relation to a number of incidents in the Handforth and Wilmslow area.

Amir Mohamed, of Ringstead Close, Wilmslow, was arrested on Saturday 8 August. He has since been charged with robbery, attempted robbery, attempted theft, and assault by beating. The 22-year-old will next appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 7 September. The charges relate to incidents on Saturday 8 August, which include reports of a robbery at the Spar store in Wilmslow Road, Handforth, an attempted robbery at the Subway store in Dean Row Road, Wilmslow, and an attempted theft at the Tesco Express store in Dean Row Road, Wilmslow.

Man jailed for attempting to send explicit image and messages to child

A man who sent explicit images of himself to who he thought was a 12-year-old girl has been jailed.

Andrew Marsden, of Minshull New Road, Crewe, was sentenced to eight years and nine months, which includes an extended sentence period of three years, after appearing at Liverpool Crown Court on Friday 7 August 2026. The 46-year-old pleaded guilty to attempting to cause a girl under

13 to engage in sexual activity, attempting to cause a girl under 13 to look at an image of sexual activity and attempting to engage in sexual communications with a child.

On 16 March 2026, a covert officer posing as a 12-year-old girl was deployed onto an online chat function linked to a games console. A conversation started between the covert officer and Marsden, with the covert officer clearly stating they were 12 years old and making multiple references to being in school. Marsden turned the conversation into one of a sexual nature on various occasions, expressing his desire to meet with the girl. He also sent explicit images of himself.

Marsden was identified through his online account and was arrested on 18 March 2026. His devices were also seized which showed he had searched online for trains to get to the girl's location. He was later charged with the offences. On top of his custodial sentence, he must sign the sex offender register indefinitely and is subject to a Sexual Harm Prevention Order.



PC Alex Barker said: *"Even though there was no victim in this case, Marsden did not know that he was in fact talking to an undercover officer and was intent on meeting with a vulnerable child, even sending her pictures of himself. In interview, he denied it was him talking to the girl and spouted lies, stating someone else must have obtained intimate pictures of him and sent the messages. As this case demonstrates, we are committed to protecting members of the public from harm and hope the substantial sentence handed to Marsden will provide members of the community with some reassurance."*

Men charged following breach of closure order in Crewe

Four men have been charged following the breach of a closure order in Crewe.

The individuals were arrested on Tuesday 11 August and have since been charged with entering a closed premises in contravention of a closure order. All are set to appear at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 20 October. They include:

- Ramazan Ahmabzai, 32, of Highfield Road, Washwood Heath, Birmingham
- Surgull Ahmadzai, 30, of Alum Rock Road, Birmingham
- Rehamgul Ahmadzia, 26, of Bamville Road, Birmingham
- Tahir Rasool, 32, of Phillimore Road, Birmingham (Rasool has also been charged with possession of cannabis)

The charges relate to reports of individuals being inside a business premises in Nantwich Road, Crewe, which had been issued with a closure order on 3 July 2026.

Calls for vigilance following police officer impersonation scam

Officers from the Constabulary are advising residents to remain vigilant following a recent incident of officer impersonation.

On Wednesday 12 August, officers were contacted by a 28-year-old man who told them he believed he had been a victim of fraud. The victim went on to say that he had received a phone call from a

number that appeared to match one used by officers from Chester Local Policing Unit. The caller, who introduced themselves as an officer from the Constabulary, told the victim their card had been fraudulently used and provided the victim with a fake crime record number. The suspect then persuaded the victim to purchase £1000 worth of Tesco gift cards and to then requested they provide the 'officer' with their details and redemption numbers as part of the police investigation.

Following this incident, the force's Economic Crime Unit is reminding the public that genuine officers from Cheshire Constabulary will never call and ask for money or bank details and to remain vigilant if they contacted by anyone claiming to be a serving Police Officer.

DI Williams of the Economic Crime Unit said: *"Scammers have a number of sophisticated tools at their disposal that can make their calls seem genuine to victims, leading them to believe that they are engaging with a reputable and trustworthy organisation. But with this in mind, there are steps you can take and signs to look out for to deter scammers from getting hold of your money.*

"Firstly, bear in mind that genuine police officers will never contact you and ask you to provide them with any bank details, redeem gift cards or put money aside to be collected by a courier later. We would also advise you to remain calm during situations like this. Scammers put a lot of pressure on victims, creating a sense of urgency that actions need to be completed as soon as possible – this is yet another sign that who you are talking to is not genuine.

"Finally, if you have any concerns regarding that who you are speaking to is not a genuine police officer, hang up, call 101 and ask the operator to verify their identity and any details they may have provided you with."

Twenty people charged in relation to theft of high value plant machinery.

Detectives from Cheshire Police have charged 20 people in relation to the theft of approximately £1 million worth of plant equipment from across the UK.

The 14 men and six woman were all arrested in 2025 following a series of warrants by Cheshire Police as part of an investigation by Ellesmere Port Proactive CID into the theft of plant machinery from hire companies across the UK. These included incidents across 19 counties, including Cheshire, Lancashire, Cumbria, Humberside, Hampshire, West Midlands, Hertfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Merseyside, Derbyshire, Greater Manchester, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Mercia, Suffolk, Cornwall and Lincolnshire.

A thorough case file of evidence was submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service, who have now authorised the following charges.

James Bergquist, aged 46 of Sandiway, Huyton, Merseyside, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Handle stolen goods (09/01/2021)
- Handle stolen goods (17/02/2022)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Thomas Howard, aged 34, of Burnley Road, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Natasha Taylor, aged 38, of Kay Street, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Madison Grattan, aged 30, of Sycamore Avenue, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Handle stolen goods (17/02/2022)
- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

William Cross, aged 43, of Cog Lane, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Handle stolen goods (17/02/2022)

Stephen Simpson, aged 43, of Prestwich Street, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)
- Handle stolen goods (17/02/2022)

Shaun Craig, aged 35, of Fielden Street, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Carl Harwood, aged 31, of Burnley Road, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Daniel Aston, aged 29, of Holcombe Drive, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Alexandra Dodgeon, aged 29, of Sycamore Avenue, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Lee Harrison, aged 40, of Woodleigh, Manchester Road, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Francis Maughan, aged 29, of Canal Street, Church, Accrington, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (30/09/2020 - 25/09/2023)
- Conspire to commit a burglary other than a dwelling with intent to steal (06/07/2022)

Ryan Williamson, aged 45, of Milton Street, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Brian Finnigan, aged 70, of Crosshills, St Giles Street, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Anthony Houghton, aged 63, of Crosshills, St Giles Street, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Neil Garrett, aged 45, of Ribble Street, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Craig Atkinson, aged 58, of Accrington Road, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Ellie-Jay Day, aged 30, of Devon Grove, Burnley, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Katherine Ostrowercha, aged 30, of Whitegate Close, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

Lauren Neil, aged 38, of Whitegate Gardens, Whitegate Close, Padiham, charged with:

- Conspiracy To Steal (24/01/2024 - 10/02/2025)

All 20 defendants are set to appear at Chester Magistrates Court on Wednesday 9 September.

Woman jailed for theft and fraud after stealing jewellery while working as a cleaner

A woman has been jailed after stealing jewellery from an elderly woman while cleaning her house.

Michelle Black, of Vine Street, Runcorn, was sentenced to 38 months in prison for theft and fraud by false representation. The 40-year-old had appeared at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 6 August after pleading guilty to the offences.



Black had been hired as a part-time cleaner and helped to clean the home address of the victim – a woman in her 80s – in Frodsham. In March 2025, the victim realised a brown purse was missing and after she was unable to find it, a full search of the house was carried out, which revealed a significant amount of jewellery was missing. This was valued at more than £22,000. Black was then identified as the only person alone in the address with the victim around the time the items were believed to have gone missing.

A report was made to police and officers discovered Black had previous convictions for similar offences. When she was spoken to, Black admitted stealing some of the jewellery and stated she took three rings to a pawnbroker. She originally denied stealing the other items of jewellery but admitted the offences at court. Approximately £8,000 worth of the jewellery has since been recovered.

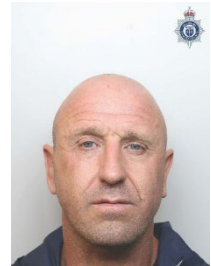
PC Malone said: *“Black was entrusted to clean the home of an elderly woman and instead of helping the victim, she caused her an immense amount of stress, knowing that her personal belongings had been stolen and sold on. This was a complete breach of trust, something which Black already had*

previous convictions for – she had clearly not learnt her lesson and had no regard for how her selfish actions affected the victim. I welcome the custodial sentence handed to her and hope the victim can be reassured that she has been brought to justice.”

Merseyside man jailed for dealing cocaine and heroin in Widnes

A Merseyside man has been jailed for selling cocaine and heroin following an investigation into County Lines drug dealing in Widnes.

Jamie Porter from Minto Close in Liverpool appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on 6 August to be sentenced after pleading guilty to being concerned in the supply of heroin and cocaine. The 47-year-old was jailed for five years and six months.



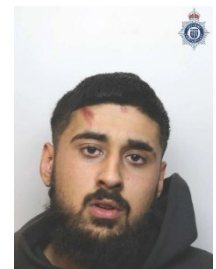
Officers from Halton Proactive CID launched an investigation into the County Line known as ‘Bigzy’ which was selling cocaine and heroin in the town. Porter was identified as the controller of a County Line and a warrant was executed at his home address on Minto Close on 1 July 2026. Porter was arrested and mobile phones seized along with over £600 in cash. He was arrested and later charged with being concerned in the supply of crack cocaine and heroin and remanded into custody.

PC Nicholls said: *“We welcome the sentence handed to Porter and hope this reiterates the message to others who look to supply drugs in Widnes, that we will identify you and send you to prison. Officers at Widnes are committed to the fight against drugs and work 24/7 to ensure that individuals looking to engage in such criminality are swiftly brought to justice.”*

Man sentenced for dangerous driving on the M6

A man from the West Midlands has been sentenced for dangerous driving in Cheshire.

Ideel Shad from Lancaster Road, Brierley Hill, appeared at Chester Crown Court on 11 August to be sentenced after pleading guilty to dangerous driving and driving with no insurance at an earlier hearing. The 22-year-old was sentenced to ten months in prison suspended for 12 months.



At around 1.10pm on Friday 5 June a Roads and Crime policing officer attempted to stop a white BMW 4 series on the M6 northbound by going in front of the vehicle. Shad swerved back towards the main carriageway making off at speed swerving between lanes. The officer then got behind the vehicle in pursuit but due to the speed and manner of driving in busy traffic the officer lost sight of the car. As he approached junction 20, he saw the car had been involved in a collision with a lorry. Shad was still standing next to the car when police arrived. He was subsequently arrested on suspicion of a number of offences including dangerous driving and driving without insurance. Shad said in response, “Do you see why I didn’t stop now?”

Sgt Andy Brett from the Roads and Crime Unit said: *“Shad’s driving was reckless and dangerous. He put other road users and himself in harm’s way, the consequences of which don’t bear thinking*

about. To drive like that in busy traffic was idiotic and has resulted in this conviction. I hope he now realises that illegal actions have consequences.”

Wrexham man charged following failure to stop pursuit

A man from Wrexham has been charged with several driving offences.

Ieuan Griffiths was arrested at around 12.44pm on Monday 10 August. Griffiths, of Cross Lanes, Wrexham, has since been charged with failing to stop for police, dangerous driving, driving without a licence and driving without insurance. The 21-year-old has been released on bail to appear at Chester Magistrates’ Court on Tuesday 22 September.

Two men arrested after illegal waste dumping in Cheshire.

Two men have been arrested as part of an ongoing investigation into illegal waste dumping on a farm at Middlewich in Cheshire.

The Environment Agency contacted Cheshire Police on Friday morning, 7 August, for assistance with an arrest as part of an investigation into a large-scale illegal waste site at a farm on Coal Pit Lane near

Middlewich. Both organisations attended the site as part of ongoing enforcement activity. A 69-year-old local man was arrested at the site on suspicion of waste offences. He has since been released on bail while investigations continue. A second local man, aged 37, was also arrested at the same site in a planned follow up operation on Monday 10 August on suspicion of waste offences. He has also been bailed.



The site includes a significant amount of green garden waste, construction waste, plastics, tyres, shredded waste and mixed household waste. All the material had been deposited on agricultural land next to the River Wheelock. It has been subject to an ongoing complex investigation into suspected illegal activity. In March, the Environment Agency published its [10 Point Plan](#) for tackling waste crime, which sets out how it will tackle illegal activity and deliver more consistent enforcement action.

Caroline Berry, Area Environment Manager for the Environment Agency, said: *“Waste crime is a scourge on our environment and communities and together with the police we’ve made arrests as part of this investigation. Waste criminals think they are above the law and can do what they want, especially on land they may own, but they can be certain we are coming for them. As part of our 10-point plan we’re taking faster, more targeted action to nip illegal waste activity in the bud and track down those responsible.”*

Sergeant Robert Simpson, of the Rural Crime Team at Cheshire Police, added: *“Some people may believe that waste crime does not harm anyone, however this is far from the truth. Not only does it cause a blight on our landscape, but it can also cause long lasting environmental damage. As part of the investigation into a site in Middlewich, we have arrested two men, and we will be working closely with our partners to ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions.*

“While our investigation continues, we would urge anyone with any information to get in touch. We would also remind local residents and businesses that if you need to dispose of any waste, please ensure that you use a legitimate waste removal company and always ask to see their licence. Some people can claim to have a licence to get rid of waste but have no intention of doing things correctly, often charging bargain prices to get rid of your rubbish, only for it to end up dumped somewhere it should not be. If the waste is tracked down to you, what started off as a good deal could end up as a hefty fine, even if you weren’t the one who dumped the waste.”



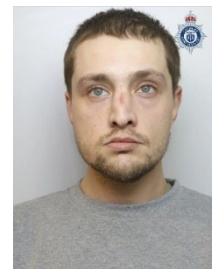
Under the 10 point plan, the Environment Agency is building on existing work and partnerships and the focused, sustained programme of action strengthens prevention, improves detection and delivers more consistent enforcement. Things people can do to help:

- Check the [public register of waste carriers](#) before paying anyone to take waste away. If they are not on the register, they are operating illegally.
- Landowners should ensure they check any empty land and property regularly to make sure it is secure. They can be liable for illegal waste dumped on their land.
- Report suspected waste crime. Every report helps build the picture that enables earlier action. Report illegal dumping, suspicious waste movements or burning, unlicensed operators, or unusually cheap disposal offers to [Crimestoppers](#) on 0800 555 111 or the Environment Agency incident line on 0800 807060.

Ellesmere Port man jailed for breaching a non-molestation order

A man from Ellesmere Port, who breached a court order preventing him from contacting his ex-partner, has been jailed.

Bartolmeij Okoniewski, of Edinburgh Court, Ellesmere Port, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 3 August, where he was jailed for 11 months. His sentencing comes after the 30-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to affray and breaching a non-molestation order.



The court was told that Okoniewski had been handed a non-molestation order in August 2025 following several incidents, including when he had sent over 100 text messages to the victim in just six days. This order, set to remain in place until August 2026, was designed to prevent him from contacting her by any means. However, Okoniewski called the victim on 28 October from a withheld number. She answered the call and recognised the voice on the other end to be that of Okoniewski. There were further calls made that same day from a withheld number, which the victim did not answer, with a further two calls made on the following day. On 31 October, the victim was contacted by yet another number, one she knew belonged to Okoniewski. The messages then continued into the next month. The victim knew the texts were from Okoniewski as she recognised certain phrases he had used and spelling mistakes he made.

The 30-year-old was then arrested on 23 November. Following his arrest, officers called the number that had been repeatedly contacting the victim. As this was done, Okoniewski's phone lit up as it

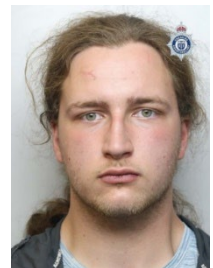
received the call. In interview, Okoniewski provided officers with a prepared statement which stated that it was he who had been bombarded with calls and text messages, claiming he had been "stitched up". Despite maintaining his innocence throughout the investigation into his offending, Okoniewski would eventually change his pleas in court.

The lead investigating officer said: *"Bartolmeij Okoniewski's onslaught of communication left the victim in this case with a constant feeling of anxiety that seriously impacted her day-to-day life. She feared that he could be around any corner and that she could bump into him at any moment. We take all reports of this nature extremely seriously and our dedicated officers do all they can to ensure victims get the justice and closure they need to go about their daily lives unencumbered, placing their needs at the very heart of all investigations. Let this sentencing be a warning to anyone else engaging in any similar behaviour, we will take action against you and you will face the full extent of the law."*

Two men sentenced for drug dealing in Ellesmere Port

Two men involved in the supply of ketamine and cannabis in Ellesmere Port have now been sentenced.

Anthony Goss and Carter Johnson, both of Princes Road, Ellesmere Port, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Monday 10 August where they pleaded guilty to two counts of being concerned in the supply of class B drugs. Goss, 19, was sentenced to 24 months in a young offenders institute, while Johnson, 20, was ordered to undertake a drug rehabilitation order and complete 80 hours unpaid work. Both defendants were also ordered to pay £85 court costs and £114 surcharge.



The case against the pair initially began in June 2026 when officers from Ellesmere Port Proactive CID became aware of a gang operating in the Stanney area who were dealing ketamine and cannabis. A number of enquiries were undertaken and on Tuesday 30 June, Johnson was spotted dealing drugs by plain clothed officers. He was stopped and searched by officers who recovered a large quantity of ketamine and cannabis. Johnson was arrested at the scene and later released on bail.

Following his arrest, officers conducted further enquiries which resulted in a warrant being executed at an address on Flint Court. Six people were arrested at the address, including Johnson and Goss, and officers also recovered a quantity of illegal drugs. Following questioning, Goss and Johnson were both charged with being concerned in the supply of ketamine and cannabis between 7 June 2026 and 9 July 2026. The four remaining suspects have been released on police bail pending further enquiries.

Following the sentencing Detective Sergeant Thomas Philpotts, of Ellesmere Port Proactive CID, said: *"Illegal drugs have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities, and I'm pleased that the team here at Ellesmere Port have now closed down another drugs gang who were operating in our town. During this investigation alone, we recovered more than £2,500 worth of ketamine and cannabis, along with five e-bikes and two e-scooters which the gang were using to deal drugs. While Goss and Johnson have now been sentenced, our fight against illegal drugs remains ongoing and I urge*



anyone with any information in relation to the supply of drugs in Ellesmere Port to get in touch. Information can be reported directly on 101 or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111."

Chief Constable unveils brave officer wall at Museum of Policing

On Friday 7th August 2026 Chief Constable Mark Roberts was proud to unveil the Brave Officer Wall at the Museum of Policing in Cheshire.

In introducing Mr Roberts, Chris Upham, Chair of the Museum Trustees said: "All officers take a solemn oath to preserve life and today there are five people alive in Cheshire who would not have been had it not been for our officers honouring that oath.' He went on to say 'All officers are brave but now and then they are required to go the extra mile and these officers did. In accepting their awards earlier this year I was very impressed to hear each of them, when interviewed, say that they were 'just doing their job'."

Chris Upham said: "We see our role at the museum as not only preserving the past but also promoting the present and we are always pleased to let the public know of the often unseen work our officers do. This wall is big feature in the museum, and we know the public will be impressed and pleased to know that that our officers will do whatever we can to keep them safe."

Chris also highlighted one of our officer's lives being saved by the fact that his body armour prevented serious injury or worse when he was stabbed 4 times in the chest with a screwdriver. He said, "Body armour saves lives and it's important that all officers not only wear it but also get it checked regularly to make sure it fits correctly and is in good condition." He went on to say "You will notice when we unveil the display that half of the featured officers are female, so bravery is not just the domain of male officers and we are proud of them all."

In unveiling the wall the Chief Constable paid tribute to the bravery of the officers who had received awards and said how proud he was of members of the force who always stepped up when required. The Mayor of Warrington, Sagheer Zaman, also paid tribute to the officers of Cheshire Constabulary.

Dave Howard, Secretary of Cheshire Police Federation said: "The Federation acknowledges the bravery of our officers who are out there 24/7 to protect the public and that's why we initiated these awards to highlight the bravest of the brave, but there are so many acts of bravery that it is always a difficult job to choose winners of the awards' He added 'The Federation will work with the museum to ensure each year the wall is updated."

The ceremony ended with a Blessing for the officers of Cheshire Constabulary given by Force Chaplain the Rev Tony Hunt.

Teenagers charged following assaults in Chester

Two teenagers have been charged with multiple offences following a series of assaults in Chester, including the assault of a police officer.

The charges relate to reports of an altercation in Foregate Street, Chester, at around 7.45pm on Thursday 6 August, involving a group of youths. A 14-year-old boy from North Wales was charged with affray, assault occasioning actual bodily harm, five counts of common assault, one count of section 18 assault, assaulting an emergency worker occasioning actual bodily harm and escape from lawful custody. A 16-year-old boy, also from North Wales, was charged with common assault, assaulting an emergency worker occasioning actual bodily harm and aiding escape from lawful custody. Both boys will appear at Chester Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 19 August. A further three teenage boys, all aged 13, were arrested in relation to the incident and have since been released on bail.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts announces retirement

Today, Monday 10 August 2026, Chief Constable Mark Roberts QPM has announced he will be retiring from Cheshire Constabulary.

The announcement ends a proud 33-year career in policing; beginning in 1993 as a police constable in Salford and ending in 2026 as Chief Constable of one of the most successful forces in the country.

Chief Constable Mark Roberts said: *"For me, policing has been a vocation and privilege, and I am immensely proud of everything that I have achieved over the past 33 years. I have worked alongside some truly dedicated and focused colleagues who strive every day to provide the best possible service to the public. I had hoped to take the force through to 2028, but the decision has been made to take the force in a different direction.*

"Cheshire is a force very much at the top of its game, so this announcement does not mean that the good work stops here - far from it. What has been achieved over these past few years has been truly outstanding and I have no doubt that this will continue. Recently we have been ranked top in the country for crime outcome rates, and we had the highest charge/summons outcome rate in the UK for overall crime. We are the best performing force for tackling violence offences, stalking and harassment, sexual offences and burglary and have some of the highest charge rates in the country for vehicle crime and shoplifting. We also lead nationally with regards to tackling the scourge that is domestic abuse. "This is on top of last year's HMICFRS inspection, where we were the only Force to be graded as 'outstanding' in managing offenders and suspects, and one of only two forces to be graded as 'outstanding' for protecting vulnerable people.

"Policing provides an outstanding career and having started life on a council estate in Stretford, it has afforded me incredible experiences. As a detective I led a murder team, Northwest Counter Terrorism investigations and deployed to Bradford around the 7/7 atrocities. I was proud to be divisional commander of Trafford where I grew up, but as a Manchester City fan it was a difficult time to police United as they dominated football at the time.

"I was the tactical commander for the 2011 riots and found great satisfaction as Deputy Chief Constable as we turned around the future of South Yorkshire Police. However, the pinnacle of my career has been as Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary with an incredible workforce doing amazing work to keep the public safe. I know this fantastic work will continue as the force moves forward."

CC Roberts began his career with Greater Manchester Police, working in both uniform and investigative roles. Throughout the following 20 years, he played an operational role in high profile incidents and investigations and lead the Northwest Counter Terrorism Unit as Head of Investigations. He moved to Cheshire Constabulary in 2014 to lead local policing across the county as an Assistant Chief Constable. His tenure coincided with reducing crime rates and an “outstanding” inspection from Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabularies and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS). In 2017 CC Roberts joined South Yorkshire Police as Deputy Chief Constable, until 2021 where he rejoined Cheshire Constabulary as Chief Constable. Since 2014, he has also been the national lead for football policing and covert legislation and guidance, overseeing many football tournaments, the latest being the 2026 Fifa World Cup.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information following burglary in Warrington

Detectives are appealing for witnesses and video footage following a burglary at a residential address in Warrington.

Sometime between 2am and 5am on Tuesday 28 July, unknown offenders forced entry to a property on Lawson Close in Woolston after snapping the locks on a rear door. Once inside, the offenders carried out an untidy search of the address. It is believed they were searching for keys to vehicles parked outside the property. The offenders then left the scene empty-handed. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation, officers are appealing for information from the public.

Detective Constable Rob Catterall said: *"Burglary is a particularly distressing crime where victims are targeted in their own home, a place where they should feel safest. I would like to reassure residents that we are doing everything we can to establish the identities of those responsible and bring them to justice. A number of enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation, we would like to hear from anyone who witnessed anything suspicious in the area around the time of the incident. We would also ask residents living in this part of Woolston to check any doorbell camera or CCTV footage they may have from around the time the burglary occurred. The same goes for anyone who may have relevant dashcam footage."*

Anyone with information is urged to contact Cheshire Police by reporting it [via the website](#) or call 101 quoting 2383586. Information can also be provided to Crimestoppers anonymously via 0800 555 111.

Appeal to trace wanted woman

Officers are appealing for help from the public in locating a wanted woman.

Danielle Davies is wanted in relation to an assault in Chester. The 37-year-old has links to Chester, Mold in North Wales and Birkenhead in Merseyside. Anyone with any information as to her whereabouts should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or visit our website, quoting 25000798492.



Appeal for witnesses following reports of sexual assault in Macclesfield

Officers are appealing for witnesses and those with dashcam footage to come forward following reports of assault and sexual assault in Macclesfield.

At 1.07am on Tuesday 11 August, police were called to reports of an incident in Churchill Way, Macclesfield. It was reported that a man had been assaulted and sexually assaulted, and he was taken to hospital by ambulance. He remains in hospital at this time.

DI Claire Miles said: *"An investigation is currently ongoing, and we would like to hear from anyone who may have witnessed the incident or saw anything suspicious or relevant in the area before or after it is believed to have occurred. We would also ask anyone who was driving in Macclesfield town centre between 10.40pm on Monday 10 August and 1.10am on Tuesday 11 August, to please check their dashcam footage to see if anything relevant has been captured. This includes near to the Churchill Way and Sunderland Street area. Anyone with any concerns, or to report any information, should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or report online, quoting IML-2393346."*

Appeal to trace wanted man from Liverpool

Officers are appealing for help in tracing a wanted man from Liverpool.

Johnathan Williams is wanted in connection to a burglary in Crewe. The 38-year-old is described as white and with light brown/greying hair and blue eyes. Williams is from Liverpool and is believed to have connections to the Staffordshire area.

Any information in relation to Williams' whereabouts is contact Cheshire Police via 101, or via the website, quoting incident reference number 25001056003.



Appeal for information following indecent exposure in Sandiway

Police are appealing for witnesses and video footage following reports of an indecent exposure in Sandiway.

The victim reported that a man wearing a dark t-shirt and dark shorts exposed himself in Kennel Woods, off Kennel Lane, sometime between 4.30pm and 5pm on Friday 7 August. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information which may aid the investigation.

Detective Constable Caitlin Clark, of Northwich CID said: *"Incidents of this nature are extremely concerning, and I would like to reassure residents that we're committed to doing everything we can to identify the person responsible. Kennel Woods is a popular spot for dog walkers, and as part of our enquiries, we're keen to hear from anyone who was in the area and believes they may have witnessed the incident. The same goes for anyone who was driving on Kennel Lane, or the A556 Chester Road, and may have any dashcam footage which could aid our investigation. I would also urge people visiting the area to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101 or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us quoting IML-2391087.

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To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: www.cheshirenw.org