

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 11th January 2026

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Two arrested on drugs offences following plain-clothes operation in Warrington

Plain-clothes officers have arrested a man and a woman after they were approached and asked if they were looking to buy drugs whilst on patrol.

At around 9pm on Saturday 3 January, two plain-clothes officers were on patrol in the Grasmere Avenue area of Warrington, following recent reports of drug dealing in the area. Whilst in the area, the plain-clothes officers were approached by a 23-year-old man who offered to supply them with drugs. The man was subsequently arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply class A and B drugs (cannabis and cocaine), with a search finding quantities of the drugs on his person. Later, a search of his address resulted in officers finding over 40 containers of cannabis, a product price list, a debtors list and around £2000 in cash. Officers also arrested a 24-year-old woman who was at the address at the time of the search on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of class B drugs (cannabis). They have both been released under investigation.

CI Rob McLoughlin, of Warrington Command, said: *"This was an excellent example of proactive policing that resulted in a very bad day on the job for the individual caught out by our officers. It is thanks to their strong local knowledge of the area, and response to the concerns of the communities they serve, that a drug dealer who was clearly looking to distribute a substantial amount of illegal produce, has now been taken off the streets."*

Two men charged following Crewe food shop burglaries

Two men have been charged following an investigation into two burglaries at Farm Foods in Crewe.

William Woodward, 40, from Broad Street, Crewe was charged with burglary and two counts of shoplifting. Corie Boak, 25, from Broad Street, Crewe was charged with two counts of burglary and two counts of shoplifting. The two men were charged following an investigation by Crewe Beat Team and Crewe Area Investigation Team.

The burglaries took place between 19 and 31 December 2025, while the shoplifting offences took place at Morrisons in Crewe on 17 December and 21 December 2025, and on 25 September 2025 at Home Bargains in Liverpool. They appeared at Crewe Magistrates on 3 January and are next set to appear at Chester Magistrates on 7 January.

Two men charged following serious collision in Winsford

Detectives investigating a serious collision in Winsford have charged two men in relation to the incident.

At around 12.07am on Thursday 1 January, officers were made aware of serious collision on High Street, Winsford, at the junction of Collingham Way. Officers attended the scene and found that the pedestrian had been hit by a blue Volkswagen Eos which failed to stop at the scene. The pedestrian, a 62-year-old local man, sustained serious injuries to his legs and was subsequently taken to North Staffordshire Hospital, where he remains at this time. His injuries are described as life changing.

Following enquiries, two men have since been arrested and charged in relation to the collision. The vehicle involved in the incident has also been recovered from the Fenton area of Stoke-on-Trent. Anthony Abbott, 45, of Plantagenet Close, Winsford, has been charged with causing serious injury by dangerous driving, failing to stop following a collision, failing to report a collision, committing a series of acts with intent to pervert the course of justice and possession of a weapon in a private place. Anthony Cornwell, 41, Tyson Green, Bentilee, Stoke-on-Trent, has been charged with committing a series of acts with intent to pervert the course of justice.

Both men appeared at Chester Magistrates Court on Monday 5 January where they were remanded in custody, they are next set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 2 February 2026. A 34-year-old woman from Cannock was also arrested on suspicion of committing a series of acts with intent to pervert the course of justice in relation to the incident. She has since been released on conditional bail.

Man charged in relation to vehicle thefts across Cheshire and Staffordshire

A man has been charged in connection with a number of vehicle thefts across Cheshire and Staffordshire.

Lileikis Edvinas was arrested on Tuesday 16 December and has since been charged with conspiracy to steal motor vehicles. The 39-year-old of Little Barn Lane, Mansfield, was subsequently remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 15 January. The charges relate to eight vehicle thefts in Cheshire and Staffordshire between Tuesday 18 November to Tuesday 16 December. The thefts included incidents in Ellesmere Port, Chester, Warrington, Crewe, and two in Wilmslow. Along with a further two incidents in Stoke-on-Trent.

Media statement – Samuel Walker false social media post

We are aware of a statement circulating on social media, including TikTok and Facebook, in relation to 42-year-old Samuel Walker.

The statement, which is dated Sunday 28 December, is branded as an official Cheshire Police press statement and refers to several partner agencies, including the National Crime Agency and the UK

Protected Persons Service. It also claims that Mr Walker has now been placed under protective measures. We can confirm that this is not an official Cheshire Police statement, and we would never release a statement of this nature. Enquiries to trace the source of the statement are underway.

Officers arrest more than 1,900 people to help keep Cheshire safe throughout December

More than 1,900 people were arrested across Cheshire during the Christmas period as officers worked around the clock to protect communities and keep people safe.

Between 1 December 2025 – 1 January 2026, 1,904 arrests were made for a range of offences, including assault, drink and drug driving and theft. There was a policing operation in place to respond to what is traditionally a busy period for the Force, as officers responded to higher footfall in towns and the city centre. Targeted patrols, proactive enforcement and partnership working formed a key part of the Constabulary's operational approach, particularly within the night-time economy. Officers also carried out roadside breath and drug testing, attended incidents of violence, and intervened early to prevent situations escalating further. Safeguarding vulnerable people and ensuring offenders face the consequences of their actions was also a priority, with a number of arrests and charges made for domestic abuse offences.

- Roadside breath and drug testing resulted in 246 people arrested – 90 for drink driving, 151 for drug driving and 5 for failing to provide.
- A number of domestic abuse offenders were successfully targeted and charged.
- The Rural Crime team seized stolen vehicles worth around 50k after an intelligence-led, cross-border investigation in Shropshire.
- Between Monday 22 December and Sunday 4 January response times remained excellent, with 93% of Grade 1 calls being reached in 15 minutes, and 91% of Grade 2 calls being attended within an hour.

CI Jamie Lewis said: *"Christmas is always one of the busiest times of year for policing, and our officers and staff worked incredibly hard to keep people safe so they could enjoy the festivities with their family and friends. Despite the volume of arrests, the majority of people enjoyed the festive period responsibly and without incident. Officers will remain committed to taking action against those who put others at risk and to keeping Cheshire a safe place to live, work and visit throughout the year."*

Runcorn man charged with a number of offences

A 30-year-old man from Runcorn has been charged with a number of offences.

Daniel McCann from South Road, Runcorn appeared at Warrington Combined Court on 6 January to face charges of assault by beating, intimidating a witness, and harassment. The charges relate to an assault on 25 December, harassment between 26 December 2025 and 4 January this year, and

witness intimidation between 9 and 20 December 2025. He has been remanded in custody to appear at Chester Crown Court on 3 February.

Convicted paedophile jailed for possessing thousands of indecent images

A convicted paedophile from Winsford has been jailed again after he was found in possession of thousands of indecent images of children.

Gary McVeigh, of Delamere Street, appeared at Chester Crown Court on Tuesday 6 January where he was sentenced to 14 months in prison. The 48-year-old had previously pleaded guilty to possession of an indecent of a child, possession of a prohibited image of a child, possession of an extreme pornographic images and three counts of making indecent images of children.



The court heard how on 21 May 2025, officers attended McVeigh's address as part of the routine checks made to monitor registered sex offenders. During the visit, officers discovered a mobile phone, a laptop, a USB stick and an SSD memory card. After checking the content of the devices, officers discovered a number of indecent images. During further checks officers recovered more than 12,950 indecent images of children. There was also evidence showing that McVeigh had distributed more than 120,000 images to other paedophiles.

Following the sentencing, DS Helen Wrigley said: *"As a registered sex offender, McVeigh was subjected to a number of vigorous checks on a regular basis to prevent reoffending and ensure he was keeping to his conditions. He was well aware of these checks, but despite this he continued to offend, downloading and sharing thousands of indecent images which showed vulnerable children being tortured, raped and abused. Thankfully, through our effective monitoring, McVeigh was quickly arrested and is now facing the consequences of his actions. I hope it reassures people that we do carefully monitor registered sex offenders in the community and take action when a breach is discovered."*

In addition to his prison sentence, McVeigh was also ordered to pay £187 costs and sign the sex offenders register for ten years.

Albanian organised crime gang plead guilty to £1million burglary series

Five Albanian men and a British woman have admitted to their roles in a series of high value burglaries across the UK.

Endrit Nikolli, 27, Kristian Gropcaj, 30, George Lleshaj, 31, Krisjian Dedndreaaj, 28, and Sidorjan Lleshi, 26, all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to possess criminal property, during hearings at Chester Crown Court on Friday 28 November and Wednesday 7 January.

Nikolli and Lleshi also both admitted one additional count of burglary, in relation to two burglaries in Staffordshire in March 2024 and December 2023. Jade Tubb, aged 33, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to possess criminal property on Wednesday 7 January.



The investigation against the gang began in October 2024 when detectives at Macclesfield Proactive CID became aware of a series of burglaries across the eastern area of Cheshire, including incidents in Macclesfield, Prestbury, Weston and Willaston. On each occasion the offenders would typically gain entry by using ladders to access first floor windows and balconies. Once inside they would ransack the properties, stealing jewellery, designer handbags, watches and cash. After a number of local enquiries, officers engaged in meetings with other forces across the UK who reported similar incidents in their areas.

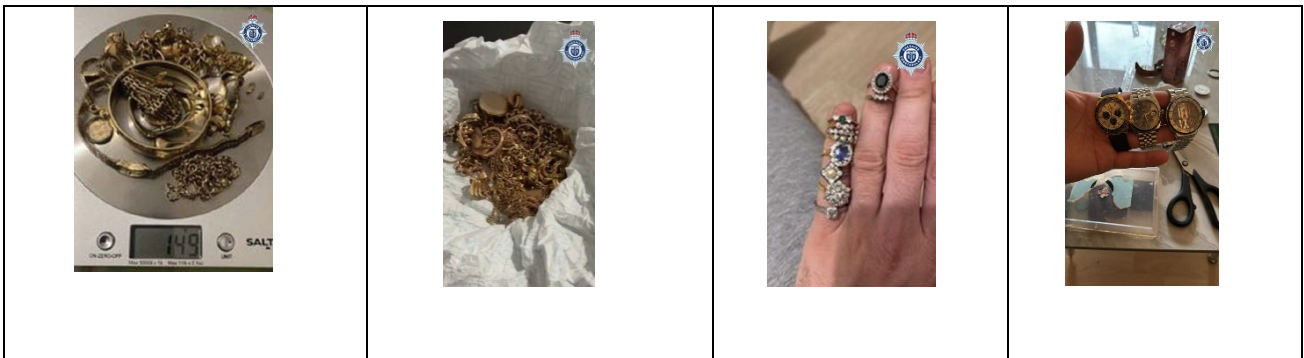


Following collaboration between Derbyshire Police, Nottinghamshire Police and Staffordshire Police, detectives from Macclesfield were able to link the incidents in Cheshire to several others across the UK through footwear marks left at the scenes. After linking the incidents, officers used Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology to identify vehicles which were present at all of these incidents. Through this work officers discovered that a red Ford Focus which was insured to Gropcaj had been present during many of the incidents. They also found that a hire car booked by Tubb had been used during many of the other burglaries.

Telephone checks were subsequently conducted on Gropcaj which revealed he had been in regular contact with Nikolli, Dedndreaj, and Lleshaj. Further enquiries revealed that the four men had been meeting on a regular basis at a coffee shop in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. In addition, officers were also able to establish that Tubb was in a relationship with Nikolli. Traces of DNA from Nikolli had also been found at the scene of a burglary in Staffordshire.

Following a culmination of months of investigation work, on Wednesday 2 July, officers from Macclesfield Proactive CID and Cheshire Police Serious and Organised Crime Unit led a series of raids at addresses in Walsall, Sutton Coldfield and Birmingham, leading to the arrests of Nikolli, Lleshaj, Gropcaj and Tubb. The raids were supported by officers from Staffordshire Police, Derbyshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police. Dedndreaj was not present at the time of the warrants, but he was later arrested in Surrey by officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Unit at Cheshire Constabulary. During the raids officers recovered 13 designer handbags, along with 14 watches worth almost £17,000. Several mobile phones were also recovered during the warrants, and during analysis officers recovered hundreds of images of the stolen items, along with messages which contained links to Google maps which correlated with the scene of the burglaries.

<https://youtu.be/jzEwUEjIF04>



In addition, officers recovered messages which showed there was a sixth member of the gang – Sidorjan Lleshi, who was living in Sheffield. A raid was subsequently conducted at Lleshi's home on Wednesday 3 September where the 26-year-old was arrested. All six defendants were later charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and conspiracy to possess criminal property.

Through all of the evidence gathered, officers were able to link the gang to at least 44 burglaries across the UK. These included eight in Cheshire, two in Cleveland, nine in Derbyshire, two in Leicestershire, five in Nottinghamshire, seven in Staffordshire, two in Warwickshire and nine in West Mercia. The estimated total value of the items stolen is in excess of £1 million and while some items have been recovered, the vast majority are believed to have been sold on.



Following the guilty pleas, DS Laura Fox, of Macclesfield Proactive CID said: *"I would like to take this opportunity to thank our colleagues at Derbyshire Police, Staffordshire Police and Nottinghamshire Police for all the support that they have provided. This investigation is a result of a detailed collaboration between forces across several months, with an unwavering commitment and tenacity to identify those responsible and bring them to justice."*

"Nikolli, Gropcaj, Dedndreaaj, Lleshaj, Lleshi and Tubb were all members of a high-level organised crime gang responsible for at least 44 high value burglaries across the UK. All of the incidents were carefully orchestrated, with the gang researching their targets before committing their crimes, even expanding their crime spree across multiple forces in an effort to go undetected. The gang specifically targeted wealthy victims, with the aim of stealing as much high value property as possible. Between them, they even set weekly targets for the amount of gold that they wanted to steal."

"Nikolli, Gropcaj, Dedndreaaj, Lleshaj and Lleshi were all responsible for conducting the burglaries, while Tubb was happy to spend their ill-gotten gains. During the searches, we recovered letters between Nikolli and Tubb, in which the pair described themselves as 'Bonnie and Clyde', in reference to how they were working together to conduct the burglaries. Throughout our investigation it has been clear that the gang had absolutely no regard for the impact that their offences would have on"

the victims. Instead, they regularly gloated about their crimes and shared images of ill-gotten gains. Thankfully, as a result of the evidence gathered during the course of the investigation, all six defendants had no option but to plead guilty to the charges and are now facing the consequences of their actions."

DI David Jarvis, of Macclesfield Proactive CID, added: *"As this case demonstrates, if you commit crime in Cheshire, you will be caught and you will be brought to justice. Our officers are committed to travelling the length and breadth of the country to ensure that those who cause harm in our communities are held accountable for their actions. I hope that the pleas entered today will provide some reassurance for the victims in this case and allow them to move forward with their lives. I also hope that this case acts as a warning to anyone else who is thinking of coming to Cheshire to commit crime."*

Dedndreaaj, Nikolli, and Lleshaj, all of Crabtree Road, Walsall; Gropcaj, of Gas Street, Birmingham; and Lleshi, of Durlstone Drive, Sheffield, have all been remanded and will be sentenced at Chester Crown Court on Friday 20 February. Tubb, also of Crabtree Road, Walsall, has been released on bail. She will also be sentenced on Friday 20 February.

Prolific shoplifter banned from stores across Northwich

A prolific shoplifter has been banned from entering several shops in Northwich after officers secured a Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO).



Jamie Clarke, of Northwich, was served with the three-year order at Chester Magistrates' Court on Tuesday 6 January, after he pleaded guilty to seven shoplifting offences. As a result of the order, the 38-year-old must not:

- Place any item within a carrier bag, rucksack or any other article capable of concealing items prior to payment when having entered any retail premises within Cheshire
- Conceal any items on his person in any retail stores in Cheshire.
- He is also banned from entering the following stores –
 - Tesco, Manchester Road, Northwich
 - Tesco, Kingsmead Square, Northwich
 - Waitrose, London Road, Northwich
 - Sainsburys, Venables Road, Northwich
 - Sainsburys Local, Chester Road, Hartford
 - Pets at Home, Chesterway, Northwich

In addition to the CBO, he has also been sentenced to 14 weeks in prison after he admitted seven counts of theft from a shop and one count of using threatening and abusive language with intent to cause harassment, alarm and distress. In total he stole items worth £681.80 from several stores across Northwich, including Tesco, Waitrose and Boots. If Clarke fails to comply with the CBO, he will be committing a criminal offence and could face a prison sentence of up to five years.

Insp Paul Heatley, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"Clarke is a prolific offender and hopefully this three-year CBO will deter such actions in the future, while also allowing us to swiftly deal with him if he breaches any of his requirements. I also hope that the order will provide reassurance to local businesses, demonstrating that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle shoplifting across the area."*

Anyone who encounters Clarke breaching the restrictions of his order is urged to contact Cheshire Police via <http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us> or call 101, to report it.

Charity box thief handed Criminal Behaviour Order

A prolific thief, who stole £400 from a market stall and a Poppy Appeal charity box on Remembrance Weekend has been handed a Criminal Behaviour Order, banning him from entering Macclesfield town centre.



Andrew Curbishley appeared at Crewe Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 17 December where he was handed a two-year Criminal Behaviour Order. The order comes after Curbishley, of no fixed address, but of Macclesfield, had previously pleaded guilty to both theft and burglary offences. Under the order, Curbishley is banned from entering Macclesfield town centre.

During his hearing, the court was told that Curbishley targeted two premises across Macclesfield town centre over a number of weeks. The first incident occurred on Sunday 9 November 2025, when Curbishley entered a pub in Chestergate, Macclesfield, and approached the bar area. Sitting on the bar was a British Legion Poppy Appeal charity box, and the 46-year-old proceeded to take it and, concealing it in his coat, swiftly left the premises. After it was noticed the box had been stolen, staff called Cheshire Police, with an attending local officer identifying Curbishley from CCTV footage that had captured the incident. Following a number of enquiries, Curbishley was promptly located and arrested.

Then, a few weeks later, on Wednesday 26 November 2025, officers received a call from a stall owner at the Grosvenor Centre, with the caller stating that £400 had been taken from her till. A man had been witnessed on CCTV entering the covered market stall and was then seen filling his pockets with the till money. A short while later, officers on foot patrol in the area were approached by the stall owner and a security guard regarding the incident, with the security guard telling police that he had just seen the same man from the footage walking on to Chestergate. The man was identified as Andrew Curbishley. The officers then swiftly made their way to Chestergate and successfully located and arrested Curbishley on suspicion of burglary and retrieved the stolen money.

Sgt Matthew Bassirat, of Macclesfield Neighbourhood team, said: *"Curbishley's actions were utterly deplorable. Not only was he content with depriving a local business owner of a substantial amount of money, but he actively chose to steal from a charity that directly supports veterans and the preservation of the memory of those who served to protect our freedom on Remembrance Weekend. I would like to thank the officers involved in responding to both incidents; their swiftness*

in apprehending Curbishely led to him being handed this two-year Criminal Behaviour Order, which will go a considerable way in preventing any further offending of a similar nature. We take all reports of theft seriously, so I would urge anyone who has been a victim of theft or any crimes against individuals or businesses to contact their local officers and let us do the rest."

Man who impersonated a police officer jailed for motor fraud series

A man who pretended to be a police officer in order to gain the trust of people who were selling their vehicles has been jailed for more than three years.

Mason Crozier defrauded seven people across the country, including in Cheshire, by claiming to have sent over funds to buy their vehicles, even showing them a fake police warrant card to ensure they trusted him. But the money he promised was never paid. The 25-year-old, of Oak Bank Avenue, Manchester, was sentenced to three years and four months on Monday 5 January 2026 at Chester Crown Court. He had previously pleaded guilty to seven counts of fraud by false representation, seven counts of impersonating a police officer, and one count of possession of an article for use in fraud.



On 11 May 2025, Crozier arranged to view a car for sale in Leicestershire and was collected from the train station by the seller. The car was previously owned by Greater Manchester Police and Crozier falsely claimed he was an officer and had previously driven the car, explaining that was why he wanted to buy it. Crozier stated the purchase was pending via his bank, even showing payments from what appeared to be a policing organisation on his online banking to make the victim trust him. He then left with the vehicle and payment was never received.

On 10 June 2025, Crozier enquired about a Volkswagen Golf which was listed for sale in Blackburn. He took the vehicle for a test drive with the victim and stated he was a police officer. He then said he would pay via bank transfer but stated he needed to leave as he had to be 'on shift'. The victim allowed him to leave with the car due to believing him to be an officer.

On 17 June 2025, Crozier attended an address in Buxton in relation to an Audi S3 for sale. He stated he was an officer and showed the victim images of police badges and his police warrant card and took the vehicle while 'waiting for the payment to go through'. Just a few days later on 21 June 2025, Crozier attended an address in Little Bollington, Cheshire, enquiring about an Audi A3. He said he was a police officer and even showed the victim videos on his phone of a pursuit he was allegedly involved in. Crozier agreed to purchase the vehicle and showed the victim that the bank transfer was 'going through' before leaving with the car.

Crozier struck again the following month on 28 July 2025 in Tattenhall, Chester. He arrived at the victim's address in a taxi, even telling the taxi driver he was a police officer and showing him a warrant card, before saying the same to the victim. He pretended to transfer funds to buy a Volkswagen Golf R and left with the vehicle. The same method of offending was used by Crozier on 10 August 2025 in Blackburn after the victim advertised a Volkswagen Motor Caravan for sale. After

taking the vehicle for a test drive, they agreed on the purchase and Crozier stated he was sorting the payment out via his bank. Crozier showed the victim a fake police warrant card as reassurance and left with the vehicle.

On 24 August 2025, Crozier attended an address in Bollington, Cheshire, after the victim collected Crozier from Wilmslow Train Station and took him for a test drive. Crozier informed the victim he was a 'highly trained police pursuit officer' and made a pretend call to his bank to pay for the Volkswagen T-Roc. When the victim asked for a form of ID, Crozier showed him a fake police warrant card and drove the vehicle away. Crozier was initially identified as a suspect due to previous convictions for similar offences. CCTV and images obtained of the suspect also gave a clear indication that he was the suspect. On 1 September 2025, Crozier was located in Manchester and arrested. A search of his address revealed fake warrants cards matching the ones used in the offences. The total value of the stolen vehicles was £107,585.

DS Roy Wellings said: "Crozier is a prolific offender who clearly had no regard for his victims, repeatedly targeting innocent people and preying on their trust for his own selfish gain. He went to extreme lengths to make his story believable. He used fake warrant cards and bank payments to back up his claim that he was a police officer, he showed people videos of pursuits and photographs on his phone to embellish his lies further, and even pretended to call his bank and show victims screenshots that payment was being made. Crozier's behaviour was incredibly calculated, and he evidently showed no remorse for his actions as he had previous convictions for similar offences. Thankfully, his offending was brought to a stop and our officers worked tirelessly to secure evidence against him, meaning that he had no choice but to plead guilty at court."

If you believe that you have been a victim of fraud, please contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via <http://cheshire.police.uk/tell-us>. You can also report to Action Fraud via actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. Call 999 immediately in an emergency or if you suspect a fraud is currently in progress.

Man charged in relation to burglary in Chester

Officers investigating reports of a burglary in Chester have charged a man in connection with the incident.

Stephen Prior, of Northgate Street, Chester, was arrested on Wednesday 7 January 2026. The 47-year-old has since been charged with burglary, attempted burglary and breaching a criminal behaviour order. Prior will next appear at Chester Crown Court on Thursday 5 February 2026. The charges relate to reports of a burglary at an address in Clifton Drive, Blacon, on Thursday 1 January 2026 and an attempted burglary at the location on Friday 2 January 2026.

Cheshire officers thwart thief's clean getaway

Cheshire officers who stopped a HGV on the M62 thwarted the driver's clean getaway after stealing from a storage container in Portsmouth.

On the morning of Wednesday 7 January officers were notified that the lorry was on false plates heading northbound between junctions 16 and 17 of the M6. The HGV was identified travelling through the county and was safely contained by officers from the Roads and Crime Unit on the M62 at junction 11. On searching the HGV they found 100s of steam cleaners which had been stolen from the Hampshire area. The 50-year-old driver was arrested on suspicion of theft, driving while disqualified, no insurance, and going equipped for theft. He has since been bailed pending further enquiries.

CI Cameron Taylor said: *"He clearly thought he was going to make a clean getaway with his haul, but he didn't expect we would continue our relentless pursuit across borders. This was a fantastic piece of teamwork between our force, West Midlands and Greater Manchester Police."*

<https://youtu.be/bGqAWFlgcl8>

Four premises closed and illicit tobacco and vapes seized in multi-agency day of action across Warrington

A total of £400,000 worth of illicit tobacco has been seized and four premises were closed in Warrington thanks to a multi-agency day of action in the town.

Operation Azelea - a proactive force-wide operation working with partner agencies - targets the sale of illicit vapes, tobacco and cigarettes, as well as those committing immigration offences through the exploitation of vulnerable people. A day of action took place on Wednesday 7 January 2026 and included more than 40 officers from Warrington Beat, Proactive, and Protecting Vulnerable People Teams, as well as the Foreign National Offender team, Northern Problem Solving Team, Northern Area Investigation Team and the Drone Unit. The external agencies involved included Warrington Borough Council's Trading Standards team, HMRC, Immigration and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

The day of action resulted in:

- 11 retail premises visited in Orford Lane, Marsh House Lane, Lovely Lane, Long Lane, Knutsford Road, Sankey Street, Winwick Street and Norris Street.
- One warrant at a domestic property in Orford Lane.
- Four retail premises were handed closure orders for a period of three months - Lovely King Vape and William Market in Lovely Lane, Bargain Beers/Kings Convenience in Orford Lane and Dubai Mini Mart in Marsh House Lane.
- A total of £400,000 worth of illicit tobacco seized.
- A total of £640 worth of illegal vapes seized.
- One man of Syrian nationality was arrested by Immigration Enforcement for illegal working.

ACC Carlos Brunes said: *"I am incredibly pleased with the results of this operation, with hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of illicit tobacco seized and four premises closed, and I would like to extend my thanks to the officers involved and our partner agencies. This partnership working is pivotal in cracking down on those who are intent on selling illicit products, and is something we do day in, day out, to make our communities safer. While we know the vast majority of businesses across Warrington, and more widely across Cheshire, comply with laws and regulations, sadly there are those who feel they do not apply to them. But let this act as a warning; you cannot hide and we will do everything in our power to ensure Cheshire is a hostile place for those flouting the law."*

DCI Christian Morris added: *"Some people may think that the sale of illicit vapes and cigarettes is a 'minor issue' however it's important to note that these offences can be the result of a much more serious issue. Those involved in such activities often have links to drug trafficking and distribution, organised immigration crime, modern slavery and human trafficking, which is why we regularly carry out operations like this, protecting vulnerable people in our communities and making sure those responsible are held accountable for their actions."*

Insp Lee Connor, of Warrington LPU, said: *"This day of action highlights how we listen to the feedback that residents and wider communities provide and regularly work together with partners to take action where needed. It has resulted in many seizures and four premises being closed which is a great result. We hope that this reassures members of the public, and we would continue to ask anyone with information about the sale of illicit products to report it so we can work together with other agencies to tackle this issue."*

Cllr John Kerr-Brown, Cabinet Member for Housing Services and Licensing, Warrington Borough Council said: *"We will continue to focus on tackling those supplying illicit products across the town. We're committed to protecting public health and keeping harmful products off our streets. Multi-agency partnership working is integral to tackling these types of premises and we are grateful to partners for their continued commitment."*

Margaret Mousley, Deputy Director in HMRC's Fraud Investigation Service, said: *"Illicit tobacco undermines legitimate retailers, funds wider crime, and deprives our vital public services of around £1.8 billion a year. We will continue to work with partners like Cheshire Constabulary to tackle the illicit trade and urge anyone with information about the smuggling, distribution or sale of illicit tobacco to report it on GOV.UK."*

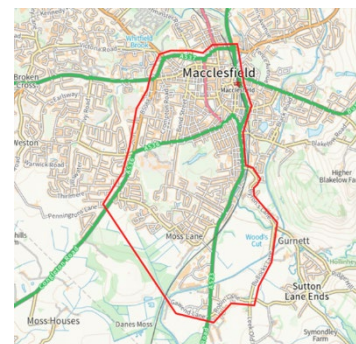
Maxine Bennetto, of the Home Office's Immigration Enforcement team, said: *"This operation is a great example of partnership working to tackle a range of criminality across Warrington. Illegal working undermines our immigration rules, undercuts honest businesses and often leads to the exploitation of vulnerable people. That's why we have surged enforcement activity to the highest levels in British history, and our teams will continue to work around the clock to ensure there's no hiding place from the law."*

Dispersal order in place ahead of Macclesfield Vs Crystal Palace game

As part of policing plans ahead of the match between Macclesfield FC and Crystal Palace on Saturday 10 January, Cheshire Police have announced that a dispersal order will be in place to ensure residents, and fans from both home and away remain safe on the day.

On Saturday 10 January, thousands of fans are expected to attend the National League North match at the Leasing.com stadium on London Road, which is due to kick off at 12.15pm. While there is no intelligence to suggest any disorder is planned, a comprehensive policing operation is planned to ensure that all fans from both home and away can have a safe and enjoyable event.

As part of this, a dispersal order will be in place from 7am on Saturday 10 January to 7am on Sunday 11 January and there will be increased policing presence in the area. The order gives officers the power to direct individuals away from the area shown below for up to 48 hours if engaging or likely to engage in anti-social behaviour, crime or disorder. The dispersal order will be imposed under Section 35 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, and those who fail to comply with the direction will face further police action.



CI Cameron Taylor, who is overseeing the policing of the game, said: *"Fans heading to this exciting match on Saturday can expect to see an increased policing presence in the local area. We know most supporters have good intentions and are looking forward to the fixture, but we also need to ensure the game runs smoothly throughout the day and prevent any crime or disorder before and after the whistle is blown."*

"We're reminding all Macclesfield and visiting Crystal Palace fans that any anti-social behaviour or disorder will not be tolerated. Our officers will be on the lookout for anyone intent on causing harm and to ensure that they are dealt with appropriately. We are also reminding parents to ensure they know where their children are during the match and support our approach with young people who may be watching the match. If anyone does see any anti-social behaviour or disorder before and after the game, please report it to us or speak to your nearest police officer."

Man jailed for dealing heroin in Congleton

A man from Newchapel has been jailed after admitting dealing heroin in Congleton.

David Scott, from Pennyfields Road, Newchapel appeared at Chester Crown Court on 6 January for trial, but changed his plea to guilty of being concerned in the supply of a Class A drug. The 41-year-old was sentenced to six years and one month in prison. Scott was arrested at his address on 10 July 2025 after officers from Cheshire Constabulary's Serious and Organised Crime Unit conducted a warrant. During the search of the premises drug paraphernalia, mobiles phones and heroin with a street value of £810 was seized along with £7206.23 in cash.



DI Graeme Carvell said: *"This is one of many drug dealers stopped in their tracks by the Op Apollo team who have been working tirelessly to dismantle county lines and put a stop to the drug dealers operating them. Op Apollo will continue to target those who believe they can establish illegal drug supply lines here in our county and go undetected. If you believe a county line is operating in your community, please get in touch with us here at Cheshire Police and we will take action."*

UKPFU statement - Man pleads guilty to posting malicious messages

A man from Lancashire has admitted sending hateful and malicious social media messages to a professional footballer.

Nigel Dewale, of Prospect Street, Great Harwood, appeared at Blackburn Magistrates' Court on Friday 9 January, where he pleaded guilty to one count of malicious communications and possession of a weapon in a private place. The 59-year-old is set to be sentenced on Wednesday 25 March at Blackburn Magistrates Court. The court heard how in July 2025 the UK Football Policing Unit (UKFPU) launched an investigation after several hateful and malicious social media messages were sent to the England defender Jess Carter. Following enquiries detectives traced some of the messages to the home of Dewale in Great Harwood. Dewale, was subsequently arrested by officers from Lancashire Police on Thursday 28 August 2025. He was later charged in relation to the messages.

Following the hearing, Cheshire Constabulary Chief Constable Mark Roberts, the NPCC Lead for football policing, said: *"Everyone is responsible for what they do and say, and posting a message on social media is no different. In this case, Dewale sent hateful and malicious messages, thinking that he would be able to hide behind his account name. His comments were totally abhorrent, they caused emotional distress for Miss Carter and her family and I welcome the guilty plea entered today. We have been clear that hate crime online or in person, is not acceptable and as we have shown in this case, you cannot hide behind a social media profile to post vile comments and spread hate."*

PC Dan Fish, Dedicated Football Officer at Lancashire Police said: *"No one should log onto social media and see the type of messages posted by Dewale, which were frankly appalling. Lancashire Police do not tolerate hate in any form, and I hope that Dewale being brought to justice today sends a clear message to anyone who thinks his actions were ok. They were not. He made a conscious decision to send those messages and will now face the consequences of doing so. We will continue to leave no stone unturned in identifying people responsible for hate crime."*

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal for information after bus damaged near Moulton.

Officers are appealing for witnesses and video footage after an unknown item was fired at a bus near Moulton.

At around 3.55pm on Tuesday 23 December, police were called to reports that a piece of metal had smashed through the window of a bus on the A533 between Peckmill roundabout and Road One roundabout. Officers attended and found that a two-year-old child had also sustained a superficial cut as a result of the incident.

Initial enquiries suggest that two youths, who were stood at a farm gate on the A533, may have fired a small fishing weight towards the bus using a sling shot. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone with any information.

PC Jack Pilkington, of Northwich Local Policing Unit, said: *"This was a terrifying incident for all the passenger on the bus and we're doing all we can to establish exactly what took place. The A533 is a busy road and as part of our enquiries we are keen to hear from anyone who believed they may have witnessed the incident. We'd also like to hear from anyone who was driving in the area between 3.40pm and 4pm and may have any dashcam footage of the suspects."*

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Cheshire Police on 101, or at www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us, quoting IML 2239218.

CCTV Images released following Crewe burglary

Officers investigating reports of a burglary in Crewe have released CCTV images of two men they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

Sometime between 1.30pm and 2.30pm on Sunday 28 December two unknown offenders gained entry to a property on Westminster Road, Crewe. Once inside the premises the pair stole silverware and china tableware. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and as part of the investigation officers have now released CCTV images two men they would like to speak to in relation to the incident.

Insp Dan Welch of Crewe Local Policing Unit said: *"Enquiries in relation to this incident are ongoing and we're committed to doing all we can to identify the people responsible. As part of our investigation we would like to appeal to anyone who recognises the men pictured in the CCTV images as we believe they may hold vital information. The same goes for anyone with any information in relation to the incident. We would also urge the men pictured to contact us."*

You can report information to Cheshire Police [via the website](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/tell-us) or call 101, quoting IML 2241740.



Appeal to trace wanted man from Warrington

Alan Bonkem is wanted on breach of a court order. The 33-year-old is described as white, around 5'7" tall, with short brown hair. Bonkem is from Warrington and is believed to frequent the area.

Anyone with any information in relation to the whereabouts of Alan Bonkem is asked to contact Cheshire Police via the website, or by calling 101, quoting incident number 25001035426.



Police appeal for witnesses following fail to stop collision in Crewe

Police are appealing for witnesses following a fail to stop collision in Crewe.

At 12.30pm on Sunday 4 January a woman in her 50s was crossing the pedestrian crossing on Flag Lane near to its junction with St Mary's Street when a Sur-Ron style electric motorbike collided with her causing serious injuries. The rider didn't stop at the scene and was last seen travelling through the town towards Earle Street. The rider was described as male and wearing black clothing. He had a rucksack on his back.

PC Ian Smith said: *"I'd urge anyone with dash cam footage of the bike in question or the collision itself to contact police. The same goes for anyone who witnessed the collision and has not yet spoken to police, or has any information on the incident or identity of the rider."*

Anyone with information should contact Cheshire Police on 101 or via the [website](#) quoting IML 2245538. Alternatively, information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA)

c/o Corporate Communications | Cheshire Constabulary | Clemonds Hey | Oakmere Road | Winsford | Cheshire | CW7 2UA
Email: cheshirenw@outlook.com
Website: <https://www.cheshirenw.org>
Facebook page: facebook.com/cheshirenwa



In partnership with



Cheshire Constabulary



Scan to visit website



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