



# CRIME REDUCTION UNIT

## Home Security Quiz

Is your home an easy target for thieves?

Give yourself 1 point for each "Yes" answer.

### OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

***Have you considered establishing a Neighbourhood/Farm Watch Scheme in your area?***

Yes  No

ross@absafe.org.uk is the main point of contact for all Neighbourhood/Farm Watch Schemes and advice and guidelines when initiating or registering a scheme can be obtained from Absafe.

***Are you aware how a Controlled Calling Zone would benefit where you live?***

Yes  No

Dave Tough, Trading Standards at Inverurie administers the zones and offers any assistance required in establishing these types of zones.

***Have you considered installing CCTV?***

Yes  No

This may not be required if your home is overlooked by other properties. Advice can be provided by us if you were to consider this necessary.

***Are you aware of cost effective alternatives to CCTV?***

Yes  No

PIR (movement detection) lights with built in CCTV cameras *can* offer a cost effective alternative to a fully integrated CCTV system.

***Are there clear views of your home?***

Yes  No

Hedges and fences at the front of your home should be kept to a maximum height of half a meter to allow natural and casual surveillance.

***Is there an access control to your property?***

Yes  No

Hedges, fences, walls and gates at the rear and sides of your home should *generally* be 1.8 metres in height with anti-climb measures (e.g. trellises) installed along the top. Gates should always be kept closed. Perimeter boundary fencing, walls, hedges and gates not only provide a physical barrier but also a line of demarcation.

***Is the material of boundary walls and fencing a deterrent against unauthorised intrusion?***

Yes  No

Thorny bushes and dense shrubbery can help to restrict unwanted access into onto your property.

***Can you secure gates?***

Yes  No

This should always be considered especially if it is a gate that is seldom used.

***Are there clear views of all windows and doors?***

Yes  No

The more private an area is, the more likely it is to attract the attention of a criminal. Thieves like to work where they can't be seen. Trim trees and shrubs that block sight to your windows and doors, especially basement windows and so they do not offer a place of concealment.

***Are there visible exterior lights that give the impression you are home, even if you're not?***

Yes  No

Install outside lighting to eliminate dark areas around doors or windows. Consider a mixture of lighting by using dusk to dawn low intensity lighting along with PIR (movement detection) lighting. Consider using PIR lights with a built in camera.

***Is the layout of your garden conducive to Crime Reduction?***

Yes  No

Gravel paths make noise and thorny bushes planted against the shell of the house directly below ground floor windows can certainly help to restrict access to the windows.

***Are the doors of your garages, sheds & outbuildings secure?***

Yes  No

Every outside door should have three points of locking (top, middle and bottom) with all fixtures and fittings (including hasps and hinges) secured with flat headed bolts, security screws or with screws whose heads have been filled in (e.g. with super glue) or "rounded" so they cannot be removed.

***Have you installed a quality lock?***

Yes  No

The use of five lever mortice locks, close shackle padlocks and audible alarm padlocks should be considered.

***Is your garage, shed or outbuilding alarmed?***

Yes  No

A personal attack alarm can be utilised as a very cost effective (£4) method of alarming a door.

***Have you ensured no one can see into your garage, shed or outbuilding?***

Yes  No

All windows should have a covering (blinds, curtains or even a black bag) over them to restrict unauthorised viewing and if the window is not needed it can be boarded up or a mesh installed over it.

***If access was gained into a garage, shed or outbuilding would expensive items be difficult to remove?***

Yes  No

All expensive items stored within these types of buildings should be secured to a ground or wall anchor or to another item and they should all be property marked.

***Is your oil tank kept locked?***

Yes  No

Oil tanks should always be kept locked and ideally screen from view. All pipework should be "boxed -in" and tanks can be alarmed from as little as £4.

***Are items of "value" kept secure and/or out of sight?***

Yes  No

One person's rubbish is another's gold. Scrap metal or items that can be sold as scrap are highly sought after by thieves. Items, if left lying about, can raise curiosity and encourage unwanted attention and people onto your land.

## **YOUR HOME**

***Are all the apertures (windows, doors, etc) of your home reasonably protected?***

Yes  No

To ensure a high level of security, consideration should be given to choosing items that have been selected for the "Secured By Design" award or products of a similar quality standard. The Secured By Design website offers guidance regarding the purchasing of security products.

***Do your external doors offer a good level of security?***

Yes  No

Any new external door-sets installed should be fit for purpose and tested to BS PAS 23/24 and be certificated by an independent UKAS accredited certification body. In general, any external doors should have:

1. three points of locking at the top, middle and bottom
2. panels that are "reinforced" - be the door constructed of wood, glass, or PVC
3. vulnerable glass door panels should be double glazed sealed units constructed of laminate glass and, where possible, the outer pane should be 6.4mm thick.
4. three hinges or one hinge running the length of the door - and, if possible.....
5. hinges on the inside of the door or covered so they cannot be tampered with
6. hinge bolts should be installed on any outward opening doors or doors deemed vulnerable to attack.
7. External or interior vulnerable *wooden* doors should be made of hardwood and at least 44mm thick.
8. The above standard (points 1 to 7) should be considered on all vulnerable *internal* doors (e.g. doors that lead to and from garages directly into/out of the house) where a breach of security would result in a high financial loss.

***Do your door locks comply with your insurance policy?***

Yes  No

Locks should be tested to BS3621:1998 and cylinders to BSEN1303 grade 3. As a minimum any mortice style locks should have a minimum of five leavers with a full metal keeper sheath. The external part of the barrel of the lock should be flush with the surface of the lock surround or fascia of the door.

***Do your windows offer protection against unauthorised intrusion?***

Yes  No

Windows and glass panels should have locks installed on them and be made to British Security Standard BS7950. Vulnerable windows should be double glazed sealed units constructed of laminate glazing and, as a minimum, the outer pane should be should be 6.4mm thick. Keys should not be stored on window ledges or in open view.

***Have you considered installing an alarm?***

Yes  No

Intruder alarms should be to British Standard BS4737 EN50131. Alarms do not always need monitored - e.g. if there are other residential properties in close proximity of your own.

***Are your valuables kept secure?***

Yes  No

Consideration could be given to installing a safe, which should be hidden from view and secured to the fabric of the building, which can be used to store money, passports and keys which you do not need for every day use.

***Have you property marked your belongings?***

Yes  No

Items can be marked with your house name and/or number and postcode using U.V. pens, engraving, paint or security stickers, etc.

***Have you photographed personal items or items of value?***

Yes  No

Jewellery, watches, etc, can be photographed next to a ruler and the camera card stored in a secure location.

***Do you ensure your home looks occupied when you are out?***

Yes  No

The use of timing devices is always encouraged. Blinds can also be tilted so no one can see directly into your home.

***Is there an easy way of seeing who is at your door without having to open it?***

Yes  No

Door chains, viewers or asking callers to go to one of the windows are inexpensive methods of keeping you and your family safe. If in doubt - keep them out!

***Do you lock your home, sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles at night?***

Yes  No

Complacency can be our biggest enemy.

***Do you lock your home, sheds, garages, outbuildings and vehicles when leaving them unoccupied or unattended?***

Yes  No

Complacency can be our biggest enemy. Sometimes we intend to only be away for a short period of time (e.g. "nipping down to the shops") but if meet someone or are otherwise distracted we can be much longer than originally anticipated.

***Do you store keys out of sight?***

Yes  No

Keys should always be removed from locks and stored out of sight and certainly not left hanging up in general view. Preferably all keys when not required should be stored in a secure location or in a cupboard or drawer.

## **VEHICLES**

***Do you lock and remove valuables from your vehicles?***

Yes  No

Lock your vehicle and keep the keys secure within your home. Remove any valuable items from within your vehicles. Never leave spare keys in your vehicle. Never leave anything in view that may encourage any criminal interest in your vehicle.

***Do you consider where you park your vehicles?***

Yes  No

Try and ensure your vehicle is parked in a well-lit area. If parking in a driveway, close any gates behind you and position your vehicle so that it is illuminated by either your own or by any street lighting. If you have a movement activated sensor on your external house light position it, if possible, to activate when someone approaches your vehicle in the drive.

***Do you utilise the vehicles security features?***

Yes  No

No matter how long you anticipate being away from your vehicle always engage the security devices (e.g. alarms, immobilisers, etc) as you may be longer than you expect.

Score: -----

34

Did you get 34 out of 34? Probably not. This could be because some of these recommendations may not be appropriate, realistic or cost effective to your home. However many may be worth considering.

Grampian is a low crime area and any action taken should consider this.

The purpose of this quiz is to alert you not alarm you and offer direction and advice. Sometimes small actions or changes in our habits is suffice to significantly reduce the chances of the people in our communities being the subject of criminal activity.

As Grampian is a low crime area anyone suspicious or indulging in criminal activity in our communities tend to draw attention to themselves. If you see anyone or anything suspicious contact Police Scotland on 101 or if it is an emergency on 999 or if you wish to remain anonymous telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

For more Crime Reduction advice and information contact:

PC Kev Marron      Crime Reduction Officer

Police Scotland, Stonehaven Police Office, Dunnottar Avenue, AB39 2JD

Telephone: 101

Email: kevin.marron@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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