

01 DEFINITION

Business Crime is defined as “**Any criminal offence where a business, or person in the course of their employment, is the victim**”.

This includes incidents and crimes against businesses and employees including security guards, shopkeepers, self-employed taxi drivers and bartenders. The definition **does not** include public sector organisations.

The **Business Crime Coordinator** role has been created to co-ordinate Lancashire Constabulary’s response to business crime whilst engaging with internal and external departments and stakeholders e.g. officers, businesses, Chambers of Commerce and local councils.

Business Crime is a key priority for Lancashire’s Police and Crime Commissioner and is included in the Police and Crime Commissioner’s crime plan.

02 TYPES

Crimes against businesses can take many forms. The most common types of crimes are shoplifting, anti-social behaviour/ criminal damage, Fraud and Cyber Crime.

However the biggest concern for businesses is violence and verbal abuse against staff. Their place of work is supposed to be a safe place and becoming a victim of crime will be intimidating for staff and can emotional, physically, financially and psychologically affect them for substantive periods.

03 NUMBERS

The numbers of business crime incidents and costs to businesses are increasing nationally and in Lancashire.

- In 2018, the retail and convenience sector lost nearly £1 billion to shop theft alone.
- In 2018, the retail and convenience sector industry recorded over 50,000 violent incidents.
- Retailers have reported that 79% of shoplifting offences are committed by repeat offenders.

04 REPORTING

Nationally, over a third of businesses do not report Business Crime either to their manager or to the Police. In order for the police to effectively decrease levels of business crime, it is very important that all business crime is reported. These are the ways to report business crime:

- In an emergency – always call 999.
- If it’s not an emergency, you can report online via the Lancashire Constabulary website. This function allows you to upload pictures and CCTV. Alternatively you can call 101.

When reporting a business crime, you will need to give the police as much detail as possible. Information that could be useful includes what crime has taken place, is there CCTV where the crime took place, are there any witnesses, is there any evidence and can you provide any information about the stolen property e.g. serial numbers.

07 GUIDANCE

Do – report all business crime.

Do – complete a victim impact statement following any business crime incidents.

Do – review all crime prevention advice and if appropriate, complete a business security assessment.

Additionally the Lancashire Constabulary website and business crime twitter page, will regularly keep businesses up to date with business crime prevention advice.

Further information

This can be found on the Lancashire Constabulary website including crime prevention guidance and the business security assessment.

06 WHAT’S NEXT?

If your business has been a victim of crime, you can make an Impact Statement for Businesses. This gives you the opportunity to set out the impact the crime has had on the business including financial loss, operational disruption or reputational damage. You should be informed about an impact statement by the police when they are taking statements about the offence.

Lancashire Victim Services can provide victims of business crime with emotional support, information and practical help in the short and long term. Contact them on **0300 323 0085**.

05 CRIME PREVENTION

In order to prevent business crime, the Lancashire Constabulary website offers a number of tips to ensure that you keep your business safe. Additionally we offer a business security assessment to help you identify where your business premises might be vulnerable to crime. This relates not only to physical security, but also security measures such as perimeter fencing and locks but also to daily routines such as recording of visitors on arrival to your premises.

In order to reduce business crime, it will be beneficial to liaise with neighbouring businesses and look into joining Business Improvement Districts and/or Shopwatch schemes. This will enable improved information sharing and partnership working to decrease crime in Lancashire.

