

This is a community message from Northamptonshire West Police to all Neighbourhood Watch members.

There has recently been an increase in the theft of cars stolen when the owners leave the engine running and unattended as they defrost them.

During these current sub-zero temperatures you should expect your windscreens to be iced up in the coming mornings.

Please be aware that opportunist thieves could be on the look out to take advantage of a vehicle left while its owner is warming it up to defrost the windows. It literally only needs a moment for a thief to have enough time to jump behind the wheel and drive off with your car.

Give yourself extra time to prepare your vehicle. The simple message is not to leave a running car unattended for any length of time whether it is left on your own driveway to de-ice on a cold winter morning or for example while you pop to post a letter.

Modern cars are quite difficult to steal without the keys so criminals are looking for opportunities to steal the car with the keys. A car unattended with its engine running is a golden opportunity for a thief.

Potentially you could lose thousands of pounds because leaving your car with the keys available in this way may leave you uninsured for the theft!

Thankyou