

How do I stop my phone from being stolen?

Video transcript for 'the types of phone theft' video presented by Martin Bayfield. Martin interviews DI Louise Drinkwater from the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit.

(DI Louise Drinkwater) There is a huge issue around people not realising that that a mobile phone is worth in the region of £600 and they are using it quite freely in the open.

(Martin Bayfield) So we are looking at increased awareness amongst the public that they are holding a valuable piece of equipment in their hand, the thieves want to fight past that, what sort of tricks will they employ to get hold of your mobile phone?

(DI Louise Drinkwater) One is the distraction method, when you leave your phone on a table and someone literally walks past and takes it, while someone else is distracting you.

Either on a peddle bike where they will snatch a phone out of a victim's hand, often when they are coming out of tube station or off a bus.

Or another very common way is pick-pockets. People leave their phones in their back pockets or in their bags with the zips undone, and its easy picking for thieves.

Martin Bayfield interviews members of the public about phone safety:

(Martin Bayfield) Do you do anything to minimise the risk of having your phone stolen?

(Member of the public #1) You don't really want to walk around with phone feeling vulnerable because it is your phone. You didn't buy it to hide it from people, you bought it to use.

(Martin Bayfield) So would you consider yourself to be fairly security conscious, when it comes to your mobile phone?

(Member of the public #2) I'm very good at leaving it in places, actually. I know that it is a bit of a silly thing to do because opportunists can soon pick it up when you are not looking. I've had friends that's happened too, so probably I'm not that very secure after talking to you.

(Martin Bayfield) So what can these people do to minimise that risk?

(DI Louise Drinkwater) Don't be a victim, take personal responsibility for your property, don't use your mobile phone (or your laptop) when you are stepping off public transport. It's easy pickings for thieves.

Keep your mobile phone on your person. Don't walk around in a public place with your phone on display.

(Martin Bayfield) Blokes will stick their phone in their pocket, women will have it in a handbag. They think that's safe, that's not the case, is it?

(DI Louise Drinkwater) No, its not safe. If you want to put your phone in your handbag make sure it's zipped up, secure and to your body. And not left on the floor, under or on a table.

(Martin Bayfield) And simple things for guys - back pocket, front pocket, does it make a difference?

(DI Louise Drinkwater) Yes, always in the front pocket and never the back. So I would say, front pocket or shirt pocket that is done up and secure.