



Neighbourhood Watch Update – August 10, 2011

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Message to Neighbourhood Watch from Deputy Chief Constable Andy Marsh.

You will be aware of incidents of civil disturbance over the last few days across the country. We know there have been many rumours of similar disturbances in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. However, I can categorically say we have received no reports of significant disorder or civil unrest and we have teams of officers and police staff, at all levels, committed to ensure it stays that way. There is, however, no room for complacency and we are fully prepared should we be called upon to respond.

Many of you will be worried about what you have seen in the media and concerned that what you have seen will be repeated locally. Much of our work, therefore, continues to focus on dispelling rumour and speculation, all of which to date has been incorrect. As a result we have received hundreds of messages of praise over the last couple of days for our work on Facebook and Twitter. We would like to thank your communities for their support.

Hampshire Constabulary is very much 'one team' and we all have our part to play in these exceptional circumstances which require us to come together as an organisation with you in the community.

I was with our teams in Portsmouth last night, will be in Southampton tonight and in north Hampshire tomorrow, to see for myself how we are working in your communities. I would like to make it clear that the support we have provided to our colleagues in London does not affect our commitment to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Every officer available will be providing high visibility patrols in local areas as a deterrent to any forms of disorder. We will act swiftly to arrest anyone involved in violence and disorder as well as those who incite it. We are in the process of speaking to people, for example, who have used online social media sites to encourage riots locally. For the most part, we believe these are young people who did not understand the implication of their words. The parents in your Neighbourhood Watch schemes can help us by monitoring their children's activity online, and by taking responsibility for where young people are and what they are doing.

I am confident that our direct approach will send a message that the communities of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will not tolerate and form of anti-social behaviour. Please go about your daily business as usual – there is no need to change your plans. We will always be here to protect you.

We would be grateful for your support. You can help us by spreading this message of reassurance among your Neighbourhood Watch scheme members and by encouraging friends and family not to spread unchecked speculation, but to follow our official updates on Facebook (you will need an account on this site to search for Hampshire Constabulary) and Twitter (you can visit www.twitter.com/Hantspolice without needing to register with the site). Thank you.



Contact Hampshire Constabulary
on **101**. In an emergency dial **999**.

