

Police concerned about spate of car thefts and break-ins

Police have reported that a recent spell of break-ins and thefts from vehicles means they need help from the public. They are appealing for witnesses and also issuing a warning to motorists to secure their vehicles properly.

In the past three weeks, 11 crimes of this nature have been reported in the Slateford, Hutchison and Fountainbridge area and local officers are investigating whether these incidents are linked.

The latest incident happened around 11.40am yesterday in Yeaman Place, when a woman had parked her car in the area, leaving her handbag within the vehicle at the time. When she returned she saw a man smashing the car's front passenger-side window before making off onto Dundee Street with the handbag. The woman contacted police who are now urging anyone who can assist with their enquiries to come forward.

The suspect is described as white, around 30-years-old, 6 foot tall with a slum build and shaved dark hair. He was wearing a grey tracksuit with a single white line down the sleeves.

Inspector Stevie Dolan said:-“The handbag had items of sentimental value inside it and the victim is very upset that these have been stolen. We are conducting local enquiries to trace the male responsible and reunite the bag with its owner and are keen to hear from anyone who was in the area yesterday morning and remembers seeing anything suspicious.

“Similarly, anyone with information relating to any of these recent incidents is also asked to contact police immediately. The public are reminded to keep personal belongings out of sight if leaving their vehicle unattended and always ensure doors are locked and windows closed. Anyone

wishing more information on crime prevention can contact their local policing team.”

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.