

Bogus tree surgeon incident in Longniddry



Police in East Lothian are appealing for witnesses following a suspected bogus workman incident in Longniddry.

A man called at a home in The Paddock, Seton Mains at around 10.30am on Friday 17th January claiming to be a tree surgeon.

He then offered to carry out some tree trimming within the garden of the elderly occupants' property for a three-figure sum.

Before the couple could give consent, the suspect began to undertake the work.

Following this the male homeowner attended at an ATM and handed over the requested fee.

Local officers are now urging anyone who can assist with their ongoing inquiries to come forward.

The suspect is described as white, late twenties with a slim build, short fair hair and a short beard. He was wearing casual khaki clothing and was driving a new-looking white Ford Transit van.

Inspector Andrew Harborow from Tranent Police Station said: "Despite not obtaining agreement from the homeowners to carry out this work, the male proceeded regardless and so as not to become involved in a confrontation, the victims handed over the three-figure sum of money he asked for.

"Having conducted inquiries at the address, we have also established that the work undertaken was minimal and should not have cost as much as was provided.

“Anyone who can help us trace the male responsible is asked to contact police immediately.

“I would also request that our communities remain vigilant for suspicious activity around the homes of elderly and vulnerable members of the public and report any concerns to their local policing team.”

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