

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION

JUDGE COMMENDS OFFICERS

PC Mark Westlake: We were requested by Chief Inspector Griffin to go out and do some plain clothes patrol in the conurbation because of a high number of burglaries that have occurred. Jim and I were actually the first two out that were asked to do it and it was the first night that we'd been asked to go out in plain clothes and patrol around the area. It was about four o'clock in morning and these two lads were walking along. It didn't seem like a pleasant evening or four o'clock in morning to be going out for a nice stroll. So it raised our suspicions are we decided to have a word with them.

PC Jim Russell-Taylor: When we stopped the two lads they had got a carrier bag on them, they couldn't describe hardly anything in the bags to us. They had got high quality expensive goods a brand new laptop, two brand new iPhones. Obviously through questioning them further about the items, it became clear then that they knew nothing about the items or hardly anything about the items.

Ruth Gross: I believe you rang the victim to tell her her house had been burgled?

PC Mark Westlake: I did. After we made the arrest we got down to custody and I had already had the opportunity to look at the two iPhones in particular and had been given authority to do so by the lad who claimed it was his. I looked through it and managed to find a number on it marked as home and I gave the number a ring and a very very distraught young lady answered it and it worked out it was actually the IP (injured party) and she hadn't even at that point known she had been burgled at all. She came running downstairs I presume on the other end of the phone and all I heard was the screaming.

Ruth Gross: How did it feel when you heard the Judge had commended you in court?

PC Jim Russell-Taylor: It's nice to get recognised. It's nice to hear that officers on the ground that obviously did the basic work all were recognised for a change.

PC Mark Westlake: For me it's nice to be recognised by external sources if you want to look at it that way other than people within the police our peers or ranking officers. Obviously it's excellent to get commended by them but it's quite another thing to be commended by a judge as well and we are absolutely proud of that.