



HARROGATE BUSINESS WATCH - SECURITY ALERT

North Yorkshire Police Warning

Thieves have been making small purchases in the town using £50 notes as payment. When they get their change they ask for different note denominations. As the transaction is taking place they cause confusion and make off with too much cash.

There was an incident reported recently in Hales Bar when staff were tricked at a busy time of the day.

After paying with a £50 note and receiving change the offender asked for the notes to be changed again during further conversation and as a result took control and confused the member of staff. The error was only noticed at the end of business when cashing up.

This is not the first time this has happened although it is quite a while since the last one.

The Police are unable to prove or disprove an offence has occurred as the cash-taking shortage could be due to another reason. However the suspect/ believed offender is described as a white male of medium build, 5.4" to 5.5" tall, with short dark untidy hair and wearing a dark shirt and blue jeans.

The incident was reported at 17.30 hrs on 5th April. The local Press Reporter says that there have been a few similar incidents in pubs and shops during the last weekend.

The Police suggest a simple remedy is when £50 note offered that a second member of staff is asked to check the change before returning it to the customer as they used to in the 'old days'

NOTE: This is a new service for Chamber members. Any feedback would be welcome.