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| **This is a message sent via In The Know - Surrey and Sussex. This information has been sent on behalf of Sussex Police** |
| https://www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk/admin/information_provider_images/20_14.jpg |
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| **Message sent by** |
| Juliet Mills (Police, Public Engagement Officer, Sussex) |

**Friday, 3 March 2017****Op Inroad – distraction burglary warning**We have received reports this week of a woman knocking on doors in the Willingdon area saying she had been asked to repair or clean windows. A householder in Eastbourne Road reporting seeing the woman hanging around outside before she knocked on the door and said she had been called about the windows. She was denied entry but was very insistent repeating that she had been asked to come and that she wanted to be let in. The resident closed and locked the door, whereupon the handle was tried from the outside. The woman is described as being of a dark complexion, with long dark brown hair tied in a ponytail, and speaking with a soft Irish accent.A little later on the same evening, a report was received from Hazel Grove, Willingdon that a man knocked on the door of an elderly occupant asking if he could clean the windows or if any other help was needed. Unfortunately no description of this man was provided. It was established that he had probably called at several properties although no other reports were received about him.Please be alert to this suspicious behaviour which is a common method for thieves to gain entry to people’s homes. They use all kinds of reasons for being let in, only to then steal from unsuspecting residents when their attention is elsewhere.Please do not accept any sort of doorstep services as, even if IDn is shown, it could be false. If you need work doing on the property then find a reputable contractor through word of mouth, the local council or East Sussex Trading Standards.To report anything relating to the above incidents please contact us and quote reference 1306 of 01/03 or  |

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