



Thursday 26 October 2023

Dear Resident,

We are writing to you in relation to our continued attempts to locate wanted man Richard Scatchard.

He is a 70-year-old man who is wanted on a recall to prison and is considered a risk to the public, specifically women he forms relationships with.

We can now confirm detectives also want to talk to him in connection with an ongoing murder inquiry, after a woman died recently. The ambulance service alerted us to the sudden death of 61-year-old Kelly Faiers, from Weston-super-Mare, at Scatchard's address on Blenheim Road, Minehead on Sunday 15 October.

A post-mortem has been carried out to try to establish the cause of her death, but the results are inconclusive. Further tests are ongoing to help us understand more about how Kelly's tragic death came about.

To help us find him, below is a photograph of Scatchard:



He is described as a white male, who is 70 years old, approximately 5ft 11ins, of average build, with short grey hair. He is normally clean shaven, however this may have changed since he was last seen. He has a Scottish accent.

It's believed Scatchard could be using a distinctive electric bicycle – a grey Gepida Alboin Curve which has a pink front tyre rim, flowers on the rim of the rear tyre and green and yellow electrical tape around the handlebars.

Many of you in the local community will know Scatchard by that name, but we are aware he has previously used the name Richard Dunlop too.



The last confirmed sighting of Scatchard was about 10am on Blenheim Road in Minehead on Monday 16 October. We are grateful to everyone who has come forward with information off the back of public appeals we have made since, and we've had 24 reported sightings which detectives are sifting through to understand whether they are indeed Scatchard.

We are asking for the community to continue to support us by providing any information about him that may be useful to our enquiries. He was known to many people in and around Minehead so may have said something in passing that could have appeared quite normal at the time but may with hindsight contain a vital clue to helping us locate him, as he could be anywhere in the country. By working together, we are more likely to find him faster and can then hopefully provide Kelly's family with the answers they deserve.

Enquiries have been conducted at that address since Kelly's death, which some of you will be aware of.

We had sought to speak to Scatchard on the afternoon of Monday 16 October, but he had disappeared. He was initially treated as a high-risk missing person due to concerns he presented an immediate and serious risk of harm to himself.

As our inquiry has progressed, we have become less worried about his welfare and far more concerned about the danger he presents to others. His previous behaviour, along with information we have gathered since his disappearance, makes us anxious he may have formed a new relationship with one or more women, and he presents a serious risk to their safety. Scatchard is a prolific user of dating apps and has previously been convicted of sexual offences.

We understand this news is likely to cause shock, sadness and concern. We want to reassure you we are working around-the-clock to locate him and there is an increased high-visibility police presence in Minehead as a result for that reason, as well as to provide reassurance.

We're committed to keeping you and the wider community informed on the progress of the investigation and will continue to issue updates on the Avon and Somerset Police website and social media channels when they are available.

If you see Scatchard, don't approach, phone 999 quoting reference **5223251706**.

If you have any other information which could help us find him, either call 101 quoting the same reference, submit it online via our website or speak with officers who are carrying out patrols in the area.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Detective Chief Inspector Jess Aston, Senior Investigating Officer

Inspector Michael Griffiths, Minehead Neighbourhood Policing Team