



Officers are currently investigating two armed robberies in Stratton, Swindon, which occurred yesterday afternoon (17/09). Shortly after 3pm and within approximately five minutes of each other, we received reports of incidents at two local shops in Stratton. The first incident happened at Grange Drive Convenience Store - a man entered the store carrying what is believed to have been a knife and threatened the shop worker whilst demanding money. The shop worker picked up a footstool and threatened to throw it at the suspect, who left the store empty handed. The second incident happened minutes later at Ermin Food and Wine, Ermin Street. A man entered the store carrying a knife and demanded money from the till. He then stepped behind the counter and made off with cash and two bottles of alcohol. Descriptions of the offender were given, and police commenced extensive area searches with the assistance of the police helicopter. The suspect is described as white, approximately aged between 25 to 30, 6 ft tall and with stubble. He was wearing a dark long-sleeved top. Det Insp Paul Hacker said: "These incidents were extremely frightening for the shop workers but fortunately nobody was injured. "We believe the incidents are linked and we immediately conducted area searches assisted by the dog unit and police helicopter. Our enquiries remain ongoing at this time. "We understand the high number of police officers in the area, at what was a busy time of day, would have no doubt caused concern to members of the public and I'd like to reassure residents that we are conducting a robust investigation to identify the person responsible."

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