# Leicestershire Police expose gorilla 999 prank as hoax calls overwhelm emergency services



Leicestershire Police have condemned a recent prank call made to the 999 emergency service, during which a local teenager falsely claimed that an armed response was required for a "gorilla" causing chaos in the town centre of Coalville. This incident underscores an ongoing and worrying trend of misuse of emergency lines, which divert critical resources from genuine emergencies.

In a recording of the call, the young prankster can be heard making a series of outrageous claims, including an alarming statement about a gorilla engaging in sexual behaviour with a monkey. When prompted for personal information, the teenager replied flippantly, “I ain’t got a phone, I'm ringing off one of those machines thingies,” before further adding, “I've forgotten where I live because I'm on loads of cocaine.” Such cavalier attitudes towards the emergency services have drawn ire from the police, who chose to release the audio as a stark reminder of the serious implications of hoax calls.

This is not the first instance of absurd misuse of the 999 service. In 2011, Leicestershire Police dealt with a similar case involving a man who called to report his missing parrot. Other calls have included bizarre requests for lighters and complaints about neighbours' swimming pools. These instances illustrate a growing problem; police forces frequently stress that the 999 line should be reserved for genuine crises. Superintendent Jez Cotterill has highlighted that such inappropriate calls consume valuable resources and can delay responses to those truly in need.

Leicestershire Police have historically tackled this issue by releasing compilations of humourous yet troubling 999 calls. In 2014, a series of laughable recordings was shared, including a caller who asked if it was permissible to use the hard shoulder of a motorway to find a toilet. The police reminded the public that these frivolous calls waste time and potentially endanger lives by obstructing emergency services.

Despite ongoing efforts to educate the public, the issue persists across various regions. In Cambridgeshire, for instance, a campaign titled "It's No Joke to Hoax" was launched in response to a rising number of hoax calls; in 2023 alone, 726 pranks were recorded. Between January and June of the following year, 318 incidents had already been documented, signalling that the problem is far from resolved. The campaign aims to inform the public about how prank calls can have dire consequences and put lives at risk.

Moreover, West Yorkshire Police also reported receiving around 6,000 hoax calls every year, equating to approximately 19 frivolous calls daily. They have been vocal in their condemnation of such actions, highlighting that these false reports could lead to prosecution—a stark reminder that misuse of the emergency service is a serious offence.

As communities continue to grapple with the ramifications of such calls, it becomes imperative for the public to recognise that prank calling 999 is not only irresponsible but can have devastating consequences for those awaiting genuine assistance. Leicestershire Police's recent exposure of the gorilla prank serves as a further call to action, urging the public to treat emergency services with the respect they deserve.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1-2: [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055554/999-prankster-gorilla-armed-police)
2. Paragraph 3: [[2]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-14927487)
3. Paragraph 4: [[3]](https://www.itv.com/news/central/2014-04-02/recordings-of-laughable-999-calls-released-as-police-warn-it-puts-lives-at-risk)
4. Paragraph 5: [[4]](https://www.capitalfm.com/eastmids/radio/news/local/nuisance-999-calls-putting-lives-risk/)
5. Paragraph 6: [[5]](https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/campaigns/its-no-joke-to-hoax)
6. Paragraph 7: [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-hulk-999-call-prank-west-yorkshire-xmen-twitter-emergency-a8652606.html)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/2055554/999-prankster-gorilla-armed-police> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-leicestershire-14927487> - In 2011, Leicestershire Police revealed that a man called 999 to report his missing parrot, highlighting the misuse of emergency services. Other inappropriate calls included requests for lighters and complaints about neighbors' pools. Police emphasized that 999 should only be dialed in genuine emergencies, as such hoax calls divert resources from those in real need and can delay responses to actual emergencies.
3. <https://www.itv.com/news/central/2014-04-02/recordings-of-laughable-999-calls-released-as-police-warn-it-puts-lives-at-risk> - In 2014, Leicestershire Police released recordings of nonsensical 999 calls to raise awareness about the dangers of hoax calls. Examples included a caller asking if she could drive on the hard shoulder to find a toilet, and another complaining about a shop's return policy. Police warned that such calls waste valuable time and resources, potentially putting lives at risk by delaying responses to genuine emergencies.
4. <https://www.capitalfm.com/eastmids/radio/news/local/nuisance-999-calls-putting-lives-risk/> - In 2011, Capital East Midlands reported that Leicestershire Police received tens of thousands of nuisance 999 calls annually. Superintendent Jez Cotterill stated that such calls divert resources from real emergencies, with 10% of genuine calls unable to be answered immediately due to hoaxers. The police emphasized the importance of using 999 only for genuine emergencies to ensure timely responses to those in need.
5. <https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/campaigns/its-no-joke-to-hoax> - Cambridgeshire Constabulary launched the 'It's No Joke to Hoax' campaign to educate the public about the consequences of hoax 999 calls. In 2023, 726 hoax incidents were recorded, and between January and June 2024, 318 incidents were raised. The campaign highlights that hoax calls waste valuable resources and can delay responses to genuine emergencies, potentially putting lives at risk.
6. <https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/cambridge-police-fake-999-call-16942190> - Cambridgeshire Police released audio of a man burping loudly during a 999 call, highlighting the issue of prank calls. The unidentified caller had targeted the police three times recently. Police emphasized that such calls waste valuable time and resources, potentially delaying responses to genuine emergencies. They urged the public to use the 999 emergency line appropriately and report any misuse.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/police-hulk-999-call-prank-west-yorkshire-xmen-twitter-emergency-a8652606.html> - West Yorkshire Police expressed frustration over a hoax 999 call from a man pretending to be the Incredible Hulk. The force receives about 6,000 hoax calls annually, amounting to 19 every day. Such calls waste valuable time and resources, potentially delaying responses to genuine emergencies. Police warned that making a false report to 999 is unacceptable and can lead to prosecution.