



# 1ST CLASS PROTECTION NEWSLETTER

Your Security News, Information & Updates



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

Vehicle Theft - 1

Distraction Burglary - 2

Knife Crime - 3

Local Crime - 4

## VEHICLE THEFT

Recently published statistics reported that 74,769 cars were stolen last year - 33% up from 2019 and up 50% over the past 5 years.

Reportedly, a car is stolen every 7 minutes in the UK, with 9 out of the top 10 locations, in terms of highest vehicle crime numbers, being London boroughs and the tenth not being far away - in Watford - still within the M25.

Thieves are largely interested in catalytic converters and expensive parts of luxury cars that can be sold on.

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## Top 10 london hotspots for car theft:

1. Lambeth
2. Kensington and Chelsea
3. Ealing
4. Southwark
5. Lewisham
6. Wandsworth
7. Greenwich
8. Hounslow
9. Watford
10. Westminster

## The UK's most stolen cars

- Range Rover Sport.
- Range Rover Vogue.
- Range Rover Autobiography.
- BMW X5.
- Land Rover Discovery and BMW 3 Series.
- Mercedes-Benz C-Class.
- Range Rover Evoque.
- Mercedes-Benz C-Class AMG.

## HOW TO PROTECT KEYLESS CAR THEFT

### 1. Look for the flash

Whenever you lock your car, make sure the indicators flash, mirrors fold, and listen for the clunk of locks.

### 2. Blocking car key signals

Find a safe place for your keys, out of sight and out of range of the car. You may want to store them in an aluminium tin or signal blocking box. Don't just assume your car key signal blocking solution works; be sure to test its efficacy.

And while out and about, carry your key fob in a shielded wallet or aluminium tin.

### 3. Fit old-fashioned locks

Buy a steering wheel lock, which makes driving away almost impossible and would significantly delay the theft of your car, making it a riskier target.

### 4. Fit a tracker

If you have a valuable car, tracker devices are essential. It means that unusual activity is monitored and you're sent an alert if it looks like



the car isn't where it should be, and cars can be followed via GPS if stolen.

**5. Switch off the fob at night**, or insist on a motion sensor fob. Find out if your fob can be switched off at night. Also, find out if your fob has a motion sensor – some car makers have started using these, which means the fob stops transmitting a signal if it's left idle for a certain amount of time, making it impossible to use the relay technique.

### 6. Consider CCTV or a smart doorbell

Like trackers, CCTV cameras aren't guaranteed to prevent your car being stolen. However, they can be a handy deterrent to put potential robbers off stealing your car.

### 7. Software updates

With cars becoming ever more connected, it's more crucial than ever to keep car thieves at bay by having the latest software installed on your vehicle.

### 8. Neighbourhood watch

Be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour in your neighbourhood to the police.

### 9. Out of sight, out of thieves' minds

Keeping a car stored away from prying eyes in a locked garage is an obvious way to make sure your car isn't spotted by opportunistic thieves.

**"Reportedly, a car is stolen every 7 minutes in the UK."**

## DISTRACTION BURGLARY

A serial burglar has been jailed after he gained entry into a dozen vulnerable and elderly people's homes by tricking them into believing he was a police officer.

David Kerrigan, 38, of no fixed address, was sentenced to nine years and 10 months' imprisonment at Snaresbrook Crown Court on Friday, 26 November.

The court heard that between, Tuesday 4 April 2020 and Sunday, 2 August 2020, Kerrigan carried out a spate of distraction burglaries where he posed as a police officer in a bid to gain his victim's trust and access their home. Kerrigan targeted elderly and vulnerable victims between the ages of 61 and 96 across London.

In total, he stole wallets and purses which contained approximately £4,000 in cash as well as jewellery and watches. He also stole bank cards which he then used in local shops.

The burglaries he was convicted of took place in Golders Green, N16, Gunnersbury, W4, Chiswick, W4, South Tottenham, N15, East Ham, E6, Kensington, W11, Acton, W3, Leyton, E17, Brent Park, NW10 and Walthamstow, E17.

Detective Sergeant Keith Faris, who led the investigation, warns:

“Distraction burglars pose as someone with fake ID or a uniform.

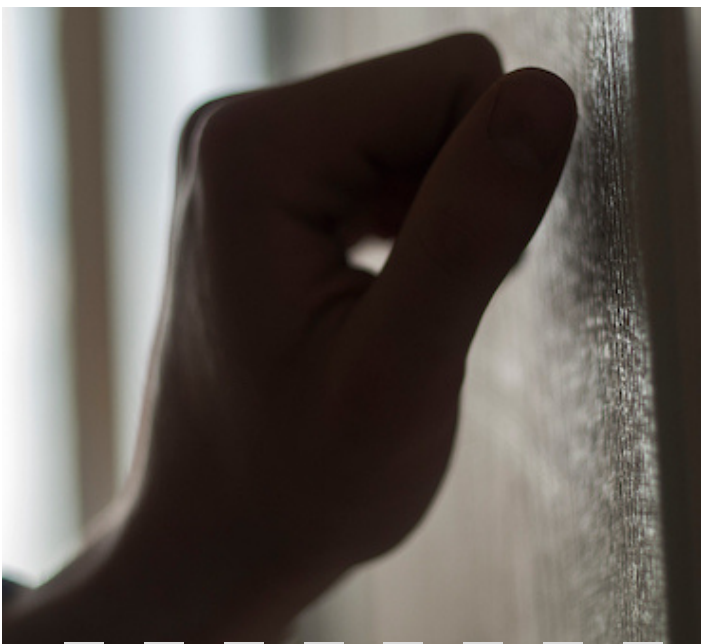
“They could say they need to check your meters, fix plumbing leaks, or virtually any official reason to enter your home.

“Utilise your spyhole or door chain where possible and always remember to ask for an ID badge or paperwork. If you are in doubt, call the official number for the company they say they are from – do not call a number they give you – or contact the police.

“If they say they are a police officer, ask to see their warrant card and ask for their name and warrant number. If you are still in doubt, call the police on 101 to clarify what they are telling you is the truth or get the lone plain-clothed officer to use our new system, which they will be aware of, to video call a uniformed supervisor in one of our police operations rooms to provide verification and properly record the encounter :

## TIPS TO PREVENT DISTRACTION BURGLARY

- Check who is at your door through the window or spy hole
- Use the door chain if you do not recognise the person
- Ask for ID or documents – genuine employees will have these
- If unsure – call the company the person says they are from and ask them to confirm employment
- Anyone claiming to work for the Metropolitan Police Service will have a warrant card and can be confirmed by calling 101
- If you suspect a crime – call 999 or 101





## KNIFE CRIME

The Metropolitan Police Service joined police forces across the country in Operation Sceptre, whose aim is to suppress knife crime and wider violence.

A range of activity was carried out by officers across the Met, including targeted patrols in violence hotspots; warrants to target high harm offenders; and weapons sweeps in areas known for stashed weapons.

Officers also worked closely with British Transport Police during knife arch deployments at transport hubs, aimed at deterring people from carrying weapons and drugs on the train and tube network.

The operation, which ran from 15 November to 21 November 2021, resulted in:

- 290 knives recovered;
- 937 arrests;
- 82 warrants executed;
- 186 community meetings and educational events, engaging with 1,206 individuals;
- 264 school presentations and engagements, involving 8,063 young people;
- 2,745 weapon sweeps.

Superintendent Jim Corbett, said: “Knife crime completely destroys victims, families and communities, which is why tackling it is our top priority.”



## LOCAL CRIME

### Armed Robbery in Barnet

Arsenal football player, Gabriel, fought off a robber wielding a baseball bat who tried to steal his £45,000 Mercedes from his garage.

Gabriel and a friend were followed home from a night out by two robbers who demanded the footballer’s car keys, mobile phone and watch as he got out of his vehicle.

One of the attackers, Abderaham Muse, then lunged at the Brazilian with the bat, but Gabriel struck him in the face and wrestled with him, grabbing his hat, until the robber wriggled free and ran off.

Muse, 26, was jailed for five years last month after police linked him to the robbery in August through DNA from the hat that had fallen off during the scuffle.

### Armed Robbery in Highgate

Detectives investigating a robbery at a shop in Highgate have released footage of the incident as they work to identify those responsible.

The incident happened at around 18:30hrs on Saturday, 6 November when four males entered the shop in Archway Road, N6.

At least two of the males were armed with crowbars. They threatened the shopkeeper and assaulted him before stealing items including cash and cigarettes. They then ran from the shop and boarded a tube at Highgate Underground Station.

PC Daryl Belsey, from North Area CID, said: “This was a shocking and violent robbery which occurred in a popular shop which has formed part of the community for a large number of years.

“The incident would have been terrifying for the member of staff who was attacked – thankfully he was not seriously injured.”