

ALERT

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HOSTILE SURVEILLANCE ON TRADERS & REPS

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE REQUEST THAT ALL MEMBERS BE EXTRA VIGILANT FOLLOWING HOSTILE SURVEILLANCE ON TRADERS AND TRAVELLING SALES REPS.

Bedfordshire, Police Scotland and Gloucestershire Police have received reports of travelling sales representatives being targeted in **Glasgow on 18.09.23, Toddington on 21.09.23 and Cheltenham on 09.10.23.**

The victim (rep) for the incident in **Cheltenham on 9th October 2023** was conducting business and in possession of goods. When he returned to his car, he observed three suspects who attempted to distract him by throwing money on the floor next to his vehicle. However, he was alerted by witnesses that this was a scam and quickly drove off. No goods stolen.

The victim (rep) for the theft in **Toddington on 21st September 2023** was returning home from a trade event in **London** and stopped at a service station on the M1. On returning to his vehicle, he found a window smashed and a bag containing jewellery stolen.

The victim (rep) for the theft in **Glasgow on 18th September 2023** was conducting business and in possession of suitcases containing goods. Police enquiries have identified that at least seven suspects were involved in the theft. CCTV suggests the rep was followed. He had recently attended a trade event in **Birmingham**.

The Metropolitan Police are working in conjunction with Bedfordshire, West Midlands, Police Scotland after pick-up points for the above-mentioned thefts in Glasgow and Toddington have been identified as Jewellery Trade Events.

THEREFORE, THE METROPOLITAN POLICE ADVISE EXTRA VIGILANCE BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER ATTENDANCE OF TRADE EVENTS. VIGILANCE IS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.

IF TRADERS/REPS NEED TO STOP AT SERVICE STATIONS ON ROUTE TO AND FROM EVENTS, CONSIDER TRAVELLING IN PAIRS. ONE CAN STAY WITH THE VEHICLE AT ALL TIMES, REMOVING THE NEED FOR JEWELLERY TO BE EITHER LEFT UNATTENDED IN THE VEHICLE OR REMOVED FROM THE VEHICLE AND CARRIED WITH THEM.

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED BY PERSONS OR A VEHICLE, PLEASE DIAL 999!!

AS A RESULT OF THIS ONGOING THREAT, SECURED BY DESIGN (OFFICIAL POLICE SECURITY INITIATIVE) HAVE ADVISED MEMBERS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TOOLS TO HELP PREVENT LOSSES:

- **Van Vault Mobile security containers**
[Van Vault Mobi with Docking Station](#) | [Van Storage Box](#) | [Safe](#)
- **Armorgard**
www.armorgard.co.uk/prod/tuffbank
- **Lone Worker & Vulnerable Person Protection**
[Accredited Product Search \(securedbydesign.com\)](http://Accredited Product Search (securedbydesign.com))
- **Members should also consider using a specialist jewellery transportation company to transport high value goods to and from trade events.**
- **Businesses are recommended to speak with their insurers regarding cover when travelling with high value goods.**
- **The installation of security containers within vehicles does not suggest goods should be locked and left unattended as this is usually an exclusion under most insurance policies.**

ALBEIT THE RECENT THEFTS HAVE NOT INVOLVED VIOLENCE OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE, IF VIOLENCE IS THREATENED, MEMBERS ARE ADVISED THAT THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO GET HURT IF THEY CO-OPERATE WITH THE ROBBERS DEMANDS.

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