



SaferGems




THE JEWEL IN CRIME PREVENTION

The Year in Review

SaferGems in 2022



THE VOICE OF THE PROFESSIONAL SECURITY INDUSTRY

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Founding Sponsors:



The National
Association
of Jewellers

About SaferGems

SaferGems is a major initiative against crime in the Jewellery, Pawn Brokers, Antiques and Fine Art Trades, hosted by the BSIA and funded by the retail jewellery industry through **TH March Insurance Brokers** and **The National Association of Jewellers (NAJ)**.



The National
Association
of Jewellers

Founding Sponsors:



TH March
Insurance Since 1887

It was introduced in June 2009 following concern about the increase in crime committed against the jewellery industry. It is intended to collate attacks, incidents, and intelligence in relation to jewellery crime around the UK. The SaferGems team, which has strong links to all the UK police forces, records details of crimes against the jewellery/pawnbroking industry, sends alerts to its members, NAJ members and those insured via TH March. A key role of SaferGems is to coordinate data across police forces to improve identification and conviction of criminals, circulates images and new crime trends and assists the police in linking offences and offenders.



SaferGems is working closely with their sponsors National Association of Jewellers and TH March to provide greater crime prevention advice to all their members.

Police forces regularly questioned the destination of stolen watches and to meet the needs of law enforcement and the Jewellery Industry SaferGems created a Watch Register. This allowed for a central database to ensure the standardisation and collection of data relating to stolen/lost or seized luxury watches. The database records lost and stolen watches which have a unique serial number and is available to Police and Industry.

It is hoped that the register makes it more difficult for stolen watches to be disposed of and assist the Police in identifying watches which form part of a criminal investigation.

In October SaferGems was invited to showcase an exhibitors stand at the **Retail Risk Conference** hosted in Leicestershire. Sarah delivered a presentation to 300 delegates setting out the operating model of SaferGems and how closely they work with the industry to prevent and detect crime in close partnership with the Police.

SaferGems to date:



**ALERTS AND BULLETINS
CIRCULATED**

**ANALYTICAL REPORTS
PROVIDED FOR THE POLICE**



**CRIMES BELIEVED TO HAVE
BEEN PREVENTED**

**ASSISTED UK & US LAW
ENFORCEMENT WITH THE
IDENTIFICATION, ARREST &
CONVICTION OF SUSPECTS.**



**RECOVERED LOST OR STOLEN
WATCHES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE ART LOSS REGISTER.**

SaferGems in 2022:

During 2022 SaferGems recorded:



21 ROBBERIES (10 ARMED / 1 FIREARM) WITH 15 CONFIRMED CRIMES AND APPROXIMATELY £746,000 WORTH OF GOODS STOLEN.

£400,000 OF WHICH HAS BEEN PRESTIGE WATCHES.

139 REPORTS OF THEFT WITH 107 CONFIRMED CASES & APPROXIMATELY £2.3 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS STOLEN.

PRESTIGE WATCHES (ROLEX/TAG HEUER/OMEGA) WERE THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ITEMS WITH 'SNATCH & RUN' THEFTS BEING THE MOST COMMON METHOD.



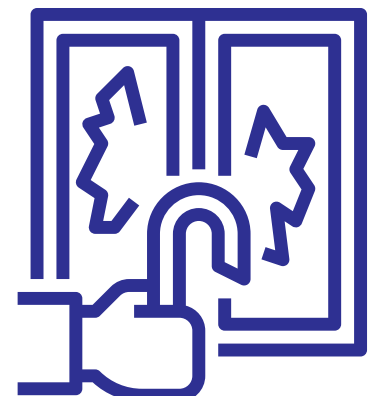
75 REPORTS OF FRAUD WITH 20 CONFIRMED CASES AND APPROXIMATELY £365,000 WORTH OF GOODS STOLEN.

FRAUD TRENDS INCLUDED BOGUS HATTON GARDEN TRADERS & CLIENTS, 'SUPER FAKE' ROLEX WATCHES, CNP (CUSTOMER NOT PRESENT) & FRAUDULENT IFC (INTEREST FREE CREDIT) APPLICATIONS.

WATCHES AGAIN THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ITEMS.

59 REPORTS OF BURGLARY WITH 40 CONFIRMED CASES AND APPROXIMATELY £3.5 MILLION WORTH OF GOODS STOLEN.

HOLE IN THE WALL/ROOF TOP BURGLARIES REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE INDUSTRY HOWEVER, WE HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE IN RAM-RAIDS AND POWER TOOLS BEING USED TO FORCE/CUT OPEN SECURITY ROLLER SHUTTERS.



Incidents of note

SaferGems were involved in a number of incidents whereby active criminals have either been arrested, identified or prevented from committing further offences, whether it be theft, fraud or otherwise. We assisted in the following:

In **February** SaferGems identified a 21yr old male responsible for a number of high-value prestige watch thefts from jewellery stores across the South East of England. February also saw the identification of a 49yr old male responsible for a number of fraudulent transactions at jewellery stores across the South East/Eastern regions of England.

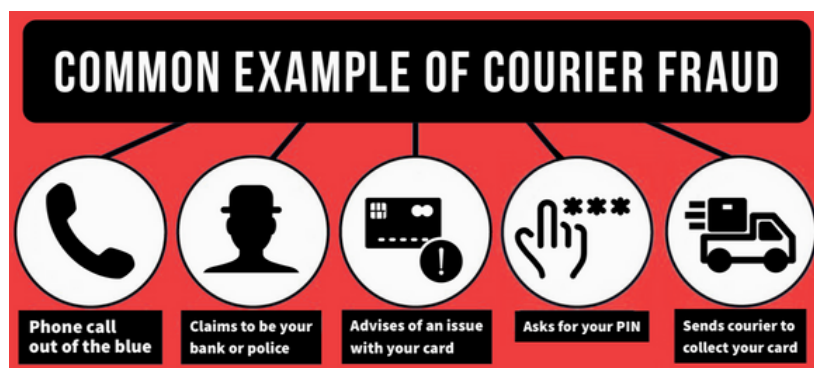
In **March**, following a surge of counterfeit Scottish £50 notes being offered to member stores across the UK, SaferGems, in conjunction with the National Crime Agency, provided members and industry with advice and guidance on how to detect counterfeit Scottish £50 notes. In partnership with Police contacts, SaferGems was also able to identify a male suspect responsible for the majority of these counterfeit notes being in circulation.



March also saw the arrest of a 20yr old male responsible for a number of high-value watch thefts from stores across England. As a direct result of a SaferGems Alert being shared with North West Police contacts, the suspect was arrested by **Greater Manchester Police** in Ashton-Under-Lyne and was found to be in possession of a Rolex watch that had been stolen from a pawnbrokers in Glasgow.

In **April** SaferGems linked a male responsible for an armed robbery in Hatfield, Hertfordshire to an armed robbery in Northampton in 2020. A 23yr old male from Northampton was later charged with both offences

May saw a national Police campaign in partnership with SaferGems highlighting the risk of Courier Fraud/Vulnerable Fraud. As a result, two SaferGems members in Leicestershire and London prevented elderly persons from being coerced into purchasing over £125,000 of prestige watches.



SaferGems was also able to identify a 27yr old male responsible for a number of 'snatch' theft offences from stores across London during May. He was later charged and prosecuted.

Incidents of note

In **June** SaferGems assisted **Kent Police** with the identification and arrest of a 32yr old female Romanian National who was sought in connection with a number of high-value 'sneak-in' thefts at jewellery stores in North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Kent. The suspect was also sought by Police in connection with a series of 'hugger mugger' offences whereby the suspect accosted elderly men in the street before stealing their high-value watches from their wrists.



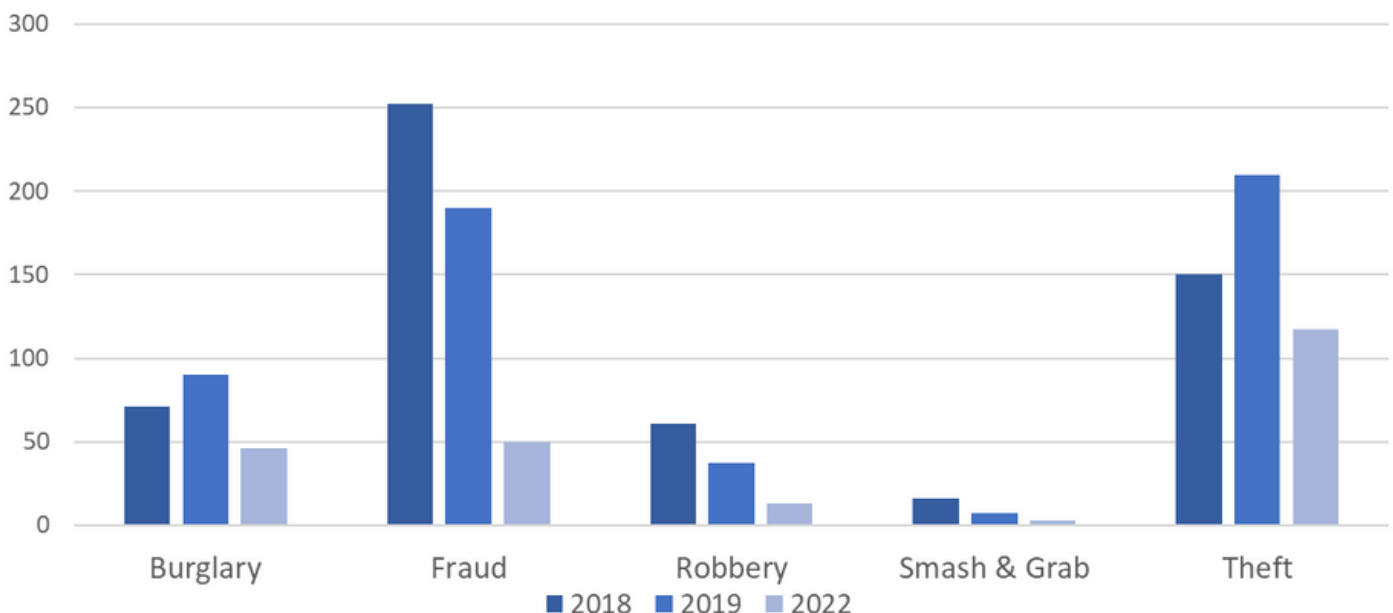
As a direct result of SaferGems Police Monthly Bulletin for June being circulated nationally to all Police contacts, a female, responsible for a series of high-value switch/distraction thefts across the South of England, was identified as a 22yr old Romanian National.



In **August**, SaferGems assisted **Greater Manchester and Metropolitan Police** with the arrest and conviction of two males who were responsible for a series of high-value thefts from stores in London and across the UK.

SaferGems also identified a 29yr old female Romanian National linked by SaferGems to high-value distraction thefts from stores in Cumbria, Dorset and Worcestershire during August. She was later identified by SaferGems for a sleight of hand theft from a store in Plymouth during **October** 2022.

In **September** SaferGems assisted the **Metropolitan Police** with the identification and arrest of a 22yr old Romanian male linked by SaferGems to the theft of goods totaling over £60,000 from stores across the South of England. Throughout 2022, SaferGems continued to be the central point of contact to assist UK Law Enforcement with ongoing investigations into the threat of jewellery shop burglaries involving organised gangs from Eastern Europe and also a prolific fraudster responsible for the theft and fraud of jewellery and watches totaling almost £2 million.



Good News Stories

SaferGems members thwart vulnerable victim (courier fraud)

On the morning of Friday 22nd April 2022, a jewellery store in Lutterworth, Leicestershire received a call from a “foreign” man regarding gold Rolex watches. He hung up when staff asked for his name and number to call back. Sometime later an elderly British woman called the shop a number of times enquiring about specific makes and models of watches wishing to buy her husband an anniversary gift.



The customer attended and quickly selected a Rolex bi-metal sky-dweller for £20,950 and expressed their intention to buy more watches in the future as an investment. Staff became suspicious of the transaction, however as the store had a single transaction limit of £10,000, the purchase had to be split and lady's bank refused the second transaction. The lady left the shop explaining she had to ring her husband at home to unlock her bank card. Staff thought this to be strange the customer gave little consideration of the monies already paid and decided to follow her from the store, they observed the lady join her husband sat a car parked nearby, not at home as she had said.

In 2021 SaferGems had circulated a Vulnerable Victim/Courier Fraud Alert, referencing to this Alert staff realised this could be a similar fraud and immediately rang SaferGems and called **Leicestershire Police** 999. Officers attended the car park and questioned the early occupants who insisted they were acting on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. It was clear they were victims of an attempted fraud; the store refunded the £10,000 formal statements were taken.



*“Without the alert from SaferGems it is highly likely we would not have spotted any signs, nor would we have made the link quickly enough to prevent an elderly couple being scammed for a large amount of money”. - **Lutterworth Jewellery store staff***

Good News Stories

A City of London jewellers prevented a 93-year-old man from losing more than £100,000 to courier fraud, following a City of London Police campaign.

The City of London Police launched a campaign during that week to raise awareness of the signs of courier fraud and called upon key organisations and sectors to help prevent people falling victim to this financially devastating crime.

Detective Chief Inspector Lee Parish, from the City of London Police, said:

“Courier fraud can cause people to lose hundreds of thousands of pounds which is why it is so important for us to work together with businesses, and in particular jewellers, to help stop people from falling victim to this crime. Our campaign and previous work with City jewellers to raise awareness of how to spot the signs of courier fraud has clearly had an impact and we are pleased that in this instance we were able to help prevent an elderly and vulnerable person from losing such a significant sum of money.”

The 93-year-old victim and his daughter had been targeted by courier fraudsters via their home landline. The elderly victim had been contacted by someone claiming to be a police officer who was asking for money. The victim withdrew £7,400 from their bank account, after being told what story to tell the bank, and it was collected from their home address.

The victim later received another phone call asking for £25,000 but they told the caller they did not have this money, so instead £2,000 was collected from their home address by a person on a motorbike.

Days later, the victim and his daughter received a phone call asking them to purchase two Rolex watches worth a total of £115,000 from Kettle Club on Liverpool Street, London EC2M. A taxi collected them from their home and took them to the jewellers in the City of London.

The victim and his daughter went to purchase the watches but staff at the shop thought it was suspicious as they had received messages earlier about the watches they were trying to purchase.

Staff at the shop called the police and officers attended. The watches were not sold to the victim or his daughter. Samuel Hesketh, co-owner of Kettle Club, said:

“The customer was elderly and frail and when they asked to buy an expensive watch, I called the police out of concern they might be being scammed. There’s definitely more awareness of the signs to look out for and it goes against everything I stand for just to turn a blind eye.”

Officers from City of London Police had previously visited the jewellers to talk to staff about courier fraud and the signs to look out for. Kettle Club had also seen messaging about courier fraud which had been circulated by SaferGems, a UK initiative against crime in the jewellery, pawnbroker, arts and antiques industry. Upon attending the jewellers, officers have provided crime prevention and safeguarding advice to the victim and his daughter.



SaferGems: meet the team



Sarah Staff

SaferGems Manager

Sarah@safergems.org.uk

Sarah is responsible for the **BSIA** joint security intelligence initiative **SaferCash** as well as newly appointed manager for **SaferGems** upon this years departure of Simon Gardener. Sarah is former Head of the Flying Squad, with a 30 year career in the Metropolitan Police.



Lee Henderson

Intelligence Analyst

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Lee joined **West Mercia Force Intelligence Bureau** in 1998 as a researcher before working on the Cheque & Credit Card Fraud desk. Went on to become a Source Co-ordinator (office manager) for the FIB acting as a central point of contact for the bureau, evaluating, collating and disseminating intelligence at national and international levels. In 2008, Lee joined the **BSIA** as an intelligence officer for **SaferCash** before moving over to SaferGems in 2010.

About the BSIA

The British Security Industry Association (BSIA) is the trade association for the professional security industry in the UK.

Our members are responsible for more than 70% of privately provided UK security products and services (by turnover) including the manufacture, distribution and installation of electronic and physical security equipment and the provision of security officer and consultancy services.

The BSIA is the recognised voice of the professional security industry, supporting and encouraging excellence; educating the marketplace on the value of quality and professional security; and creating an environment in which to flourish.

BSIA Membership is the symbol of quality and professionalism in the security industry.

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