

PRESS RELEASE

CUT CAR CRIME BY MAKING TAMPER-PROOF NUMBER PLATES COMPULSORY

The huge rise in the number of stolen number plates could be easily halted if the Government made it mandatory for cars to be fitted with tamper-proof versions.

That's the view of Hills, the UK's largest number plate manufacturer and maker of SecurePlate, the only system to meet the DVLA's tough theft-resistant standards. According to latest figures, over 40,000 sets of plates were stolen last year, representing a 25% increase on 2004 statistics.

"Number plate theft could be practically eradicated if the Government made it mandatory for all vehicles to be equipped with a theft-proof number plate system. It would be very easy to introduce as all new vehicles could have the system fitted by manufacturers, while older cars could be fitted at either a regular service or MoT test," explained Mark Debenham, SecurePlate's sales and marketing manager.

"SecurePlate is becoming widely-recognised as a significant and cost-effective deterrent in the fight against vehicle crime. It is the centrepiece of many crime prevention initiatives by police forces throughout the UK," he added.

David Hall, purchasing manager for the Inchcape Group, agrees and says the motor trade can play an important role by making customers more aware of anti-theft solutions such as tamper-proof plates.

"SecurePlate is a major step forward in the prevention of this fast-growing crime and provides peace-of-mind for motorists. It represents an opportunity for staff in dealerships to explain to customers how they can easily avoid falling victim to number plate theft and car cloning," he commented.

Cut car crime by making tamper-proof number plates compulsory/2..

Top police officer, Supt John Wake, who heads the national Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service, has also voiced his support for tamper-proof plates and recently stated that he has no confidence in the current licensing system to prevent car cloning.

"I am happy to endorse the concept of the SecurePlate product as a way forward in combating number plate theft. It is a very simple and cost-effective process that has long-term benefits for car owners. It is beneficial not only for the duration that you own the vehicle, but also has added value when you sell it on," he said. The VCIS' fleet of cars is fitted with the SecurePlate system.

The patented number plate, approved by Secured By Design, a national crime prevention initiative, is specially designed to shatter into pieces, making it impossible to use on any other vehicle.

SecurePlate suppliers and full product details can be viewed online at www.secureplate.com or call Hills Numberplates on 0121 623 8106. Around 150 dealerships in the UK, including groups covering all major manufacturers, are able to fit SecurePlate.

-ends-