To the Home Office Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill Team,

Please see the UK Police Service, Secured by Design (Police Crime Prevention Initiatives Ltd), consultation response to the "Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill - Home Office Equipment Theft Prevention Bill - Consultation Webpage Link" below:-

We were part of a BSI (British Standards Institute) committee, responsible for developing and producing a standard called ***Asset Marking Products:- BS 10121-:2022*** to assist in reducing the opportunity for theft of vehicles and other associated equipment; and a means to identify such property if it is stolen via law enforcement or other body to its rightful owner (This was in response to significant issue of such theft and the lack of a formal asset marking benchmarking process to introduce a deter and detect element against these crime types).

This was completed in cooperation and collaboration with a range of stakeholders including but not limited to industry specialists, certification bodies and manufacturers (Including the Home Office Scientific Services) etc… The standard also when out to public consultation in line with the formal process of standard creation and adoption by the BSI. We have also been and continue to assist the NPCC UK Police Service Lead (Andy Huddleston the NPCC Rural Crime Lead) with this Bill and associated works.

Under the Proposal – section A

Proposal A

Q1. No

Q2. Off road capability and engine capacity

Q3. Yes

Q4. Unfortunately, vehicles of this type are vulnerable to theft due to a lack of robust security measures built into the products at source and the ability of the criminal.

Q5. No - Most new ATV's will cost above £5,000. However, it is imperative that organised criminal gangs and other adversaries, need to know that all ATV's whatever the make, model and RRP are covered within the legislation. This will ensure that any potential change in asset selection for theft is reduced due to increased risk of detection and assist in decreasing criminal modifications in behaviour because they begin to target lower value products.

Q6. Yes - Due to current significant high crime rates (Continuing to rise) and the associated impact on the farming industry and other associated sectors that the theft of these highly portable units incur / cause. This both from a financial and operational perspective on the business (Putting jobs and business at risk), but also the financial gain the criminal obtains from such targets and assists supporting further crime by organised crime gangs due to the financial benefits obtained by carrying out these crimes by selling on such assets.

Proposal B

Q7. £250- This will target expensive tools used by trades people, manufacturers could make the commercial decision to mark products at a lower RRP, however it sets a benchmark for all manufacturers to follow in the UK.

Proposal C

Q8-11 Aimed at dealers and manufacturers.

Q12. Yes - Additionally any forensic system should comply with ***Asset Marking Products:- BS 10121-:2022*** and be tested (Testing laboratory should be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:201) and ideally certificated (Certificating Body should be accredited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services against this standard). Such a process will ensure that an element of proof / assessment / validation of the forensic system meets the manufacturers claims and intended use (This forms part of the standard). It will also assist in ensuring that the applicable forensic system will be able to function in a challenging working environment which are encountered on farms or construction sites for example and mean that such a mark will not be obliterated or lost in such operational or criminal attack circumstances.

In short, the forensic system applied to tools and ATV's needs to be identifiable for a set period of time, that claim from the manufacturer needs to be tested and importantly certificated against to ensure the manufacturers of the ATV's and tools have a reliable and independently audited system.

Certification of a forensic system against ***Asset Marking Products:- BS 10121-:2022*** will ensure the proposed systems within the Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill work as intended (Testing laboratory should be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:201) and ideally certificated (Certificating Body should be accredited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 - Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services against this standard).

Q13 No

Q14. Nil

Q15. N/A

Q16 - Only in the certification of a forensic system against ***Asset Marking Products:- BS 10121-:2022*** will ensure the proposed systems within the Equipment Theft (Prevention) Bill works has intended and we don’t end up with systems utilised and implemented by manufacturers that don't actually work as claimed. Manufactures claims of such asset marking systems should be independently tested and certified, already referenced above, otherwise we will potentially end up with a process whereby victims and businesses have no confidence in such systems because they don’t work.

Q17 Yes – I have worked in the Police Service and associated stakeholders for nearly 30 years in variety of departments i.e. Neighbourhood Policing, CID, Stolen Vehicle Squad and a crime prevention / designing out crime roles to reference just a few - theft of tools and machinery has always been an issue and crime rates have continued to rise in this area. Across the UK, the Police Service recovers vast amounts of stolen property, trying to identify the victim of such crimes for a conviction. This has always been a problem for Police Officers and other associated staff in being able to identify who the recovered property belongs to. Having worked widely on forensic marking systems to reduce crime we know they work and conversely increase the risk for offenders by way of being caught with identifiable property and give reassurance to the public.

I'm confident the proposed legislation will reduce theft in these areas but only if audited and certificated forensic systems are used in accordance to ***Asset Marking Products:- BS 10121-:2022.***

18 – Law enforcement

To conclude, Police CPI (Secured by Design) would be happy to discuss with the Home Office Team, how a bespoke security guide, toolkit or similar could be created for the benefit of promoting the bill. This would be so that the relevant audience can better understand the requirements of the new bill and the associated obligations for security that this consultation process subsequently introduces. We would also be happy to assist in any associated communications to not only get the message out to industry and the wider audience but also get the message out to the criminal fraternity so that this could potentially begin to put an element of doubt into the psyche of the advisory and consequently reduce such crime types.

Very Best Regards

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