

To:

_____MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Member of Parliament,

I am writing to you to try and raise awareness of van and tool theft amongst the trade community.

Every day, we hear about work vans being broken into and tool theft. As a member of the trade, I am writing to you to ask you to take action to support British industry.

You may not be aware that 66% of tradespeople have their tools stolen, and the knock-on effect that can have on their income and mental health, particularly during a time of skill shortage within the industry.

Recent statistics, courtesy of the Met Police illustrated that £57,000 worth of tools are stolen in London alone, every day. Another reported that **a van is broken into approximately every 23 minutes** in the UK. **51% of builders fall victim to tool theft.**

Vans are often damaged in the process of obtaining tools. This damage plus the theft causes a huge disruption to a person's ability to do their job - in turn making earning a living incredibly hard.

According to **polls run by Builders Talk Group**, many within the trade don't bother reporting theft to the police, as often the calls are not taken, or they are just given a crime number with no follow up to the crime itself. Additionally, it appears that the second-hand tool market is not being effectively investigated, with little done to prevent it. Online selling sites such as Facebook, eBay and Cash Converters are a free-for-all for thieves.

I am asking you to help us to make a change:

We are calling for our tools to be less attractive to thieves and spot-checking of resellers. We are also calling for this type of crime to be documented more effectively by the police.

Tool theft is a booming business in Britain, and how it is reported and investigated by the police is a critical to the Government ascertaining how widespread this crime is. Too many livelihoods are being ruined by this type of crime and this part of the community is being hugely overlooked and undervalued.

We need your support in taking action to combat the current situation, try and bring agencies together to deal with the situation, and regain public trust in the Police.

I welcome the opportunity to speak with you and ascertain what is being done to prevent this type of crime from ruining the lives of many British workers.

Sincerely,

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____

Contact number: _____

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