

## **BEATING CAR CRIME**

If you have not found yourself a victim of vehicle crime you should consider yourself lucky because vehicle crime accounts for a very high proportion of all recorded crime. Cars are stolen for profit to order and they are also used in other crimes such as robbery, joy riding and moving stolen goods, all of which can devastate innocent people's lives.

Increased insurance premiums, inconvenience, and loss of business and in extreme and tragic cases, loss of loved ones, can be the price we pay for the mindless minority who live off vehicle crime.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

The best and most effective way to reduce the chance of car theft is by fitting an electronic immobiliser so even if the thief gets into your car it cannot be driven away.

To help reduce the risk here are a few tips that will help protect your car.

- Secure the doors, windows, boot and sunroof every time you leave your car – even for a few seconds
- At home make sure your car keys are out of sight and hidden
- Do not leave your car in a vulnerable situation e.g. in a pub car park overnight
- Take your keys with you when you pay for petrol at the petrol station and never leave the engine running
- Use properly installed “Thatcham” compliant approved security devices
- Etching vehicle registration numbers on the glazing and in-car entertainment will deter a thief because it creates more work for the thief when attempting to disguise the identity of the car
- Never leave credit cards or other plastic cards in your car. Lock everything in the boot out of sight before you start your journey
- Do not leave your car keys in the sight of an opportunist thief
- Use locking wheel nuts to prevent the theft of wheels
- Never leave your unattended car running to help it defrost on cold frosty mornings

### **TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**