

Immobilise.com - A way to protect all property that has a serial number

Police have a new tool to catch criminals but need our help. The National Mobile Property Register (NMPR) is a tool the police use to search for stolen Mobile phones. It is linked to all the phone companies and to insurance companies but now the NMPR can search for any item that is reported stolen and has a serial number.

The way they have done this is to create a website called www.immobilise.com where you can register for free and record any item, such as your lawn mower etc., as long it has a serial or unique number. Bicycles are a must, as many are stolen throughout the country.

Once you have created your immobilise account you can add or remove any item you wish or if the worst happens you can mark it as lost or stolen. The Police are then able to search the NMPR if they find the property either handed in or in the possession of a villain. The NMPR will only show the police if the item is recorded, its status and who owns it, nothing else. This is great, especially if you have children away at University or you run a business with lots of IT equipment: you can register it all on immobilise and you have a ready inventory on screen away from your home or business in case the villains steal your computer or you lose your written list of equipment.

How good is it? In Harrogate, for example, Police have returned several mobiles which were in their property store. They were able to do this following the training of their property officers in the use of NMPR and the crime team have recovered others phones during warrant searches. All of these were recorded by phone companies, not their owners, on their system. This has prompted a growing amount of property recorded on Immobilise by people living in the Harrogate district.

So what can NHW do? If we all register just our mobile phones that will be a start. The police say that that some 15% of mobile phones that are checked are stolen ones. The Metropolitan Police are big users of this system as are Avon and Somerset and Greater Manchester Police. North Yorkshire Police are now using this system.

Once the villains know that the likelihood of being caught if they steal a mobile phone has suddenly increased the theft of mobile phones will fall. But why stop at mobiles? Record your television, DVD, Video, MP3, Bicycles and lawn mowers, the list of items with serial numbers is endless.

Telling the villains that NHW are using immobilise is also important and the police are aiming to run publicity campaigns about Immobilise.

But can't the Police find out whose mobile it is anyway? Not if a villain replaces a SIM card with one of his own. However, the IMEI number stays the same. How many of you know your 15 digit IMEI number? It's in your phone under the battery but it will also show on the screen if you key *#06# .

The theft must still be reported to the police and to your mobile company; Immobilise just updates the NMPR.

Another Government computer system? No, this is the brain child of a former hotelier who couldn't understand why the phone companies couldn't block his mobile when it was stolen. It is funded by the Home Office with top security built in, but is privately run and is FREE. Insurance companies also use this database to check if a registered item is stolen.

TO PREVENT CRIME IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY