



Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

Quarterly Report (April- June 2010)

Operation Crassus NRPIF / PANIU Briefing



In association with:





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Welcome to the second quarterly report for 2010 from the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit (PANIU).

PANIU is a specialist police unit that is totally funded by the Construction and Agricultural Insurance industries and from funding directly from the Construction Equipment Security and Registration Scheme (CESAR).

The primary aim of the unit is to reduce plant theft across the United Kingdom. It does this in two ways, firstly by assisting the Roads Policing Officer and Patrol Officer on the street to identify stolen equipment and tackle the organised criminal networks responsible for targeting plant equipment, secondly, by enabling the industry to have a direct access to specialist Police officers who are dedicated to reduce plant theft and understand the complexities of the respective industries.

PANIU assist Police throughout the Country by gathering and deseminating intelligence relating to theft of plant machinery. PANIU maintains the most accurate theft database known which receives daily theft data not only from the PNC but also from the majority of the major insurers in the current market.

All data is carefully checked and cleansed. It is the only database in the world that is considered so accurate to be circulated to both SOCA and Interpol and approved by the Home Office, ACPO and the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA). PANIU data is held for Police purposes only and does not operate on a commercial reward basis.

The current PANIU stolen equipment database commenced in October 2008 and now comprises over 10,500 items of equipment. This data is circulated daily to 187 countries worldwide using the Interpol ASF network.

In a joint partnership with the Insurance companies and the Home Office endorsed Construction Equipment Security and Registration Scheme, www.cesarscheme.org, PANIU data can be accessed out of normal office hours on 08 450 700 440.



Current Theft Trends



This quarter has seen a dramatic rise in thefts from the farming communities. Rural crime has risen with organised criminal networks specifically targeting farmyards and farming equipment...

Tractors, telehandlers ,mowers, quads and utility trucks have all been stolen from farms and groundcare specialists.

When compared with theft data recorded by PANIU for the periods January - July 2009 and the same period in January - July 2010 the theft of tractors is showing a 12% increase. 355 tractors stolen this year already compared to 315 during the same period last year shows a worrying increase!

Agricultural crime rates in certain counties have risen dramatically. Over the 6 month period the Lincolnshire thefts have risen by 50%, PSNI have risen by 46% and Kent have risen 39%!

Gloucestershire lost 1 stolen tractor in the 2009 quarter to 10 stolen tractors this quarter, a 90% increase!

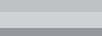
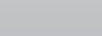
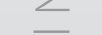
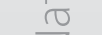
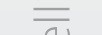
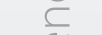
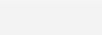
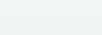
This quarter has seen a 68% rise in John Deere product being stolen. In the first quarter 42 JD tractors were stolen. This quarter the number has risen to 70 items stolen. Current indications are showing that this is continuing to rise over the harvest months whilst more equipment is left out in fields.

Specifically relating to tractor thefts, Northern Ireland was the hotspot for thefts over this last quarter with 17 tractors stolen.

The figures for the current quarter also show signs of a continued increase.



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Current Theft Trends

The current top ten force areas for thefts are shown below:

APR - JUN 2010		
TRACTOR THEFTS 2010	TOT	%
PSNI	17	11
LINCOLNSHIRE	16	10.5
KENT	13	8.6
TVP	10	6.6
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	10	6.6
WEST MERCIA	8	5.3
WEST YORKSHIRE	7	4.6
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	7	4.6
AVON AND SOMERSET	5	3.3
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	4	2.6
OTHER	55	36.2
TOTAL	152	100%

APR - JUN 2009		
TRACTOR THEFTS 2009	TOT	%
TVP	10	7.1
PSNI	9	6.4
WEST MERCIA	9	6.4
NORTH YORKSHIRE	9	6.4
LINCOLNSHIRE	8	5.7
CHESHIRE	8	5.7
NORFOLK	8	5.7
KENT	8	5.7
WEST YORKSHIRE	7	5.0
SUSSEX	7	5.0
OTHER	57	40.7
TOTAL	140	100%

Whilst the theft numbers remain high Police have been very quick to respond. Rural Forces have been very proactive and a number of publicity campaigns and proactive operations have resulted in a number of arrests being made.

A particularly good example of this proactivity can be demonstrated with the overnight thefts on the 9th - 10th June 2010 in the Vale of Evesham when four new 8000 series John Deere tractors valued at £100,000 each were stolen from a main dealership. Because of their high value and the professional theft techniques that were employed the dealer was not expecting to see them again.

Two days later during a successful operation by Lincolnshire Police, whilst they attended a quiet disused rural premises they recovered two of the tractors in the process of having their identities changed resulting in a number of persons being arrested.

Within days the outstanding two tractors were seized by Police in the back of a Polish registered lorry entering Dover Docks en route to Eastern Europe.



Current Theft Trends

The theft of the Lincs tractors demonstrates how organised criminal networks are targeting UK farms and machinery dealers. PANIU continue to supply crime pattern analysis, current intelligence and information on recent thefts which has proved to be vital for Police and has a considerable effect in reducing this type of crime

Other farming equipment is also being targeted. Thefts of industrial ride on mowers and utility trucks such as the John Deere Gators from both farms and groundcare specialists, golf clubs sports grounds etc have seen dramatic rises in theft rates.

RIDE ON MOWER THEFTS	TOT	%
GWENT	9	18.4
AVON AND SOMERSET	5	10.2
LINCOLNSHIRE	4	8.2
NORFOLK	4	8.2
SURREY	4	8.2
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	3	6.1
ESSEX	3	6.1
OTHER FORCES	17	34.7
TOTAL	49	100%



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Total Thefts for April - July 2010

The Manufacturer theft data remains similar this quarter, the one noticeable exception being that of John Deere which has seen a 68% increase in theft rates which has raised its position from third position to now being the second most stolen manufacturer. The obvious reason being that more product are out in use during the spring summer months and left vulnerable.

	TOT	%
JCB	184	14.9
JOHN DEERE	70	5.7
KUBOTA	55	4.5
TAKEUCHI	48	3.9
MASSEY FERGUSON	41	3.3
CATERPILLAR	39	3.2
NEW HOLLAND	33	2.7
VOLVO	33	2.7
BOMAG	32	2.6
BENFORD/ TEREX	31	2.5
OTHER MAKES	669	54.2
TOTAL	1235	100%

Theft By Type April - July 2010

Again the most popular item being stolen during this period was the traditional mini excavator with 195 stolen during this period. The second most stolen item continues to be agricultural tractors with the difference between both becoming markedly smaller.

TYPES	TOT	%
MINI EXCAVATOR	195	15.8
TRACTOR	152	12.3
GENERATOR	123	10.0
TELEHANDLER	113	9.1
EXCAVATOR	62	5.0
DUMPER	59	4.8
HYDRAULIC BREAKER	49	4.0
RIDE ON MOWER	49	4.0
ROLLER	44	3.6
AIR COMPRESSOR	41	3.3
OTHER TYPES	348	28.2
TOTAL	1235	100%

Theft By Force Area April - July 2010

The two major cities of Manchester and London continue to vie for lead for having the title of worst plant theft hotspots. This quarter has seen the Greater Manchester area take the premiership lead with 88 reported thefts. The Metropolitan Police has had a noticeable reduction in reported crime from 132 crimes last quarter down to 85 this quarter. Kent continues to be in third place with Thames Valley following in fourth place.

FORCE	TOT	%
GMP	88	7.1
METROPOLITAN	85	6.9
KENT	53	4.3
TVP	52	4.2
AVON AND SOMERSET	51	4.1
WEST YORKSHIRE	42	3.4
ESSEX	42	3.4
SURREY	41	3.3
WEST MERCIA	39	3.2
LINCOLNSHIRE	37	3.0
OTHER FORCES	705	57.1
TOTAL	1235	100%

Other Forces Thefts

	TOT
NORTH YORKSHIRE	35
HAMPSHIRE	33
STRATHCLYDE	30
UNKNOWN	27
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	26
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	26
BEDFORDSHIRE	26
SUSSEX	26
BTP	26
LEICESTERSHIRE	25
CHESHIRE	24
WEST MIDLANDS	24
PSNI	24
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	23
LANCASHIRE	21
HERTFORDSHIRE	21
DEVON AND CORNWALL	21
NORTHUMBRIA	20
DERBYSHIRE	20
GWENT	20
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	18
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	18

	TOT
CUMBRIA	14
HUMBERSIDE	14
WARWICKSHIRE	14
NORFOLK	14
STAFFORDSHIRE	13
SOUTH WALES	13
DYFED POWYS	12
MERSEYSIDE	11
LOTHIAN AND BORDERS	11
NORTH WALES	9
CENTRAL SCOTLAND	8
SUFFOLK	7
WILTSHIRE	7
DURHAM	5
CLEVELAND	4
GRAMPIAN	4
DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY	3
FIFE	3
DORSET	2
NORTHERN CONSTABULARY	2
TAYSIDE	1

Regional Clusters

SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDS & ANGLIAN
YORKSHIRE & NE
NORTH WEST
SOUTH WEST
MIDLANDS
SCOTTISH & NI
WALES
BTP & MOD



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CESAR News & Recorded Thefts

Since January 2007 over 33,000 machines have now been fitted with CESAR identification systems. In the last few months alone 1540 systems have been fitted to agricultural tractors and machines. The Agricultural industry is now starting to embrace CESAR with more and more manufacturers starting to fit CESAR as standard during manufacture.

This quarter has seen John Deere now start fitting CESAR as standard on new 2010 plate models.



CESAR Success

From the start of the Official CESAR Scheme in 2007 to the current date - only 259 machines fitted with CESAR have been stolen. This figure is similar to the number of machines stolen each and every month not registered with the CESAR Scheme however, this low figure is over a 3 year period and averages out at only 7 machines a month. The CESAR Scheme is acting as a powerful deterrent plus an aid to recovery and true identification.

In addition to this positive news, 75 of these CESAR registered machines have now been recovered. This equates to a vastly improved 34.5% recovery rate which is a significant difference to the previous recovery rate of only 5% prior to the inception of CESAR.

More CESAR news and information including easy to download guidance documents including the new Home Office Guidance on Plant Machinery and Equipment and the PANIU annual theft report can be found at www.cesarscheme.org. This website now includes crime prevention advice and benefits pages applicable to Police, Farmers Insurance industry etc.

Current Market Intelligence

There appears to be an increasing confidence in the construction market place with the change of UK Government. Markets appear to be recovering from the effects of the global Recession. However a number of factors will continue to effect the agricultural and construction industries in different ways.

Reports from manufacturers show an increase in orders for most markets. Orders to supply equipment for the Indian and Chinese markets are strong.

However although the market is slowly recovering companies are very aware that confidence with the UK Economy remains low. The new Governments initial cost cutting exercises has sent worrying waves through industry. The cancellation of many proposed Government funded projects such as school rebuilding projects will no doubt cause a number of companies further difficulties, however the recent financial incentivisations for local authorities for new housebuilding projects will hopefully provide opportunities for new construction projects.

The agricultural sector is now also in somewhat turmoil. The original drought for most counties in April /May is leading to lower yields than expected with wheat and barley yields lower than previous years. This has since been compounded now that the rains have arrived delaying harvest further. Grain prices will continue to escalate given the failed Russian harvest over the next few months.

Widely reported shortages of both hay and straw are also dominating worries for farmers. With so little rain the hay crops are yielding between 40-50% less than normal. This has led to a national shortage with farmers concerns that they have not produced enough winter feed for their own cattle let alone being able to produce enough for commercial sale. Consequently farmers in all areas are reporting large numbers of thefts of hay/straw bales from the fields immediately after harvest. Large bales previously sold for £15 per unit are now selling for £45+.

With financial constraints now effecting both markets it is anticipated that theft and fraud figures will increase significantly over the next few months as a result of these issues.



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Recent Police SUCCESSES

To assist Forces with proactive operations, PANIU now has a number of specialist ‘sting’ decoy vehicles available for loan.

With support from the MPS Technical Support Unit these machines have proven to be a considerable success lately.

A number of Forces including Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Thames Valley and Avon and Somerset have already conducted covert sting operations on plant thieves using the PANIU equipment.

Incredibly in nine of the last ten most recent operations, the equipment has been stolen often within hours of deployment. The equipment, fitted with specialist designed tracking equipment is then tracked.

This had led to a large number of persons being arrested and charged for theft and handling stolen goods. These operations have had a noticeable effect on subsequent reported crime in the area with thieves targeting areas where the police are less diligent.

In a recent operation the decoy machine had only been deployed for less than 3 ½ hours before it was stolen!

Such is the success of these operations that PANIU is endeavouring to obtain more equipment for such deployments. To request the use of one of these machines or to obtain specialist advice please contact PANIU on 0207 230 7290.

PANIU does not charge for use of such equipment and will provide specialist tracking support for the recovery phase.

If your Force area is suffering theft please consider use of our ‘sting vehicles’.

PANIU are always looking for donor machines that may be suitable for such use and for Training purposes so please consider us before disposing of any old equipment.

Items of interest

Congratulations to Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire Constabularies.

Lincolnshire Police have recently received National coverage on BBC News for their work tackling tractor theft. Special mention must be given to Dave Sargeant and Chris Wesley from the Force Stolen Vehicle Unit in arresting a number of tractor thieves and then engaging with a high profile crime prevention campaign. Working in partnership with Cambridgeshire and PANIU they also attended the largest Agricultural show, CEREALS 2010 to to promote crime prevention and the CESAR scheme to farmers.



Lincolnshire Police vehicle promoting the official CESAR scheme.

Operation Shovel

Congratulations also to Thames Valley Police and DC Nick Gilbert and his team promoting crime prevention. Thames Valley Police have gone further and arranged a local initiative whereby TVP arranged to pay 20% towards the cost of CESAR registration. Police officers have been visiting farms on their area and giving advice on how to protect themselves from theft. They are then offering to help pay towards the CESAR registrations to help farmers further. Operation Shovel is a new force-wide initiative targeting criminal networks stealing from farms and construction sites.



Over 100 TVP police officers and PCSO's attended a Plant Theft Awareness & CESAR training course in July.

Operation Lodestar

Congratulations to Sussex Police together with PANIU who have recovered over £500,000 worth of heavy machinery including bulldozers, large quarry dump trucks and heavy excavators en route to be exported to Northern Cyprus. Enquiries continue and a full briefing will be given in a future publication.

If you are aware of any good news stories please contact PANIU via 0207 230 7290 or via PANIU@met.police.uk



Unusual Thefts

Overnight 16/17/July 2010 from Redlands Quarry, West Yorkshire a pair of cement mixers were stolen from the site. Offenders gained entry into the site by smashing the padlocks off the gates, entered a portacabin and got access to the keys then driven the vehicles away.

- The two vehicles stolen are;
1. Mercedes Truck VRM; NK55 EJV
valued at £35,000.00
 2. Mercedes Truck VRM; NK57 CFE
valued at £40,000.00

West Yorkshire
Crime Ref: 13100296085



Between the 21.00 on 30/07/10 and 08.30 on 02/08/10 a light blue Terex Pegson, 100sr stone crusher (rock crusher) serial no 100155RM5R worth £153,000 was stolen from Geotech Quarrys, Dungannon, Northern Ireland.

C&C serial 322 on 02/08/10 refers.

Telephone: 02890 650222 ext 53051
Email: CHRIS.KELLY@psni.pnn.police.uk



If Forces have photos of unusual equipment please forward them to PANIU for both immediate circulation via AVCIS for inclusion in future quarterly reports.



The ultimate security device??



When you think you're sinking in paperwork spare a thought!



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The Official Security and Registration Scheme

STOP POLICE! - URGENT: ID REQUIRED

- Supported by the Home Office and ACPO
- Scheme designed to assist Police in identifying equipment
- 24/7 Secure accredited call centre for Police access
- CESAR mandatory with many Councils & Authorities
- CESAR fitted as standard by leading manufacturers inc: Doosan, JCB, Vibromax, Manitou, Bomag, NC Dumpers, Takeuchi, Bell, Merlo, Landini, McCormick, Hanix, etc.

The Official Registration Scheme



Police Scanning the ID Triangle



DNA

A unique Forensic "DNA" solution and the latest advanced ID technology to be introduced by Datatag. Each piece of plant or machinery will be protected with an invisible unique "DNA" code and criminals will have to be confident they have removed every molecule.



Self Adhesive Tag

This flexible self-adhesive transponder contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit and situated under / within one of the triangular ID plates. The number cannot be altered or deleted and is impervious to attack by electric shock & magnetic waves.



CESAR ID Triangle

These tamper-proof plates carry a unique plant identification number ensuring that your equipment can be easily identified and concealed within a machine. The ID plate also contains the CEA and Datatag worldwide registered name & trademarks. The ID plate is attached to both sides of the machine.



Datatag® Datadot®

A superior microdot identification system developed for ease of use. The Datadots® can be applied to any surface, thus making it virtually impossible for the criminals to locate and remove them all.



Glass Tag

This transponder is about the size of a grain of rice and is permanently concealed within each piece of equipment. It contains a unique code number which is permanently programmed into its integrated circuit which cannot be altered or deleted.

Unbelievably - £1 million of UK equipment is stolen every week and only 5% ever recovered*

* Approx figures



www.coneq.org.uk



www.aea.uk.com

PROTECT YOUR EQUIPMENT NOW!
Call 08 450 700 440 | www.cesarscheme.org

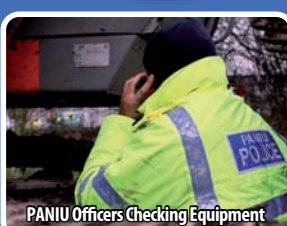


www.datatag.co.uk



STOP PLANT THEFT

If you have any information on the theft of machinery or require advice, then contact: Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit



PANIU Officers Checking Equipment



Scanning of Registered Machinery

Did you know...

- The Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit is a specialist Police Unit whose remit is to assist Police and other law enforcement agencies with the identification of stolen plant or agricultural machinery.
- We offer support and advice to help you identify any type of plant or agricultural machine.
- We maintain the most accurate police database of all stolen machines throughout the UK.
- We record all national theft data and have access to the PNC and the majority of plant insurers and manufacturers loss data.
- We offer advice, intelligence and statistical information regarding organised criminal networks working in your area.
- We can provide suitable 'sting' vehicles including tractors and excavators at nil cost.
- We provide specialist police examiners for pre planned operations.
- We provide training and advice to officers around identification and investigative techniques.



The Official Security & Registration Scheme

www.cesarscheme.org

PANIU promote the CESAR registration scheme whereby registered plant equipment can be identified by any person without the need for detailed examinations or specialist equipment. CESAR was created as a direct result of police highlighting the difficulties they faced when dealing with equipment theft.



www.datatag.co.uk



www.cits-uk.org

You can contact PANIU during office hours by ringing 0207 230 7290

Out of these hours the PANIU stolen equipment database can be accessed by Police by ringing CESAR on 08 450 700 440 24 hours a day!

PANIU is staffed by Police Officers there to help You!



Plant Theft - The Real Truth

**PANIU is a specialist police unit dedicated to reducing plant theft
in association with:**

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Home Office



Association of
Chief Police Officers



Construction Plant
hires Association



Agricultural Engineers Association



Plant Theft Action Group



**It would not have been possible without the assistance
and funding help specifically from:**



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