



Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

Quarterly Report (January - March 2010)

Operation Crassus NRPIF / PANIU Briefing



In association with:





Welcome to the first 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 with information and intelligence relating to theft of plant machinery. PANIU maintains the most accurate theft database known which receives 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 8,500 items of equipment. This data is circulated to 187 countries worldwide using the Interpol ASF network.

In a joint partnership with the Insurance companies and the official Home Office Construction Equipment Security and Registration Scheme, www.cesarscheme.org this PANIU data can be accessed out of normal office hours on 08450 700440.



Current Intelligence

Although the economy is still seen to be suffering from the effects of the Recession, it is apparent that the construction industries appear to be showing a marked increase in turnover and business. As a result OEM plant manufacturers are recording significant increases of sales of new equipment.

Financial lending is on the increase and building and construction firms are reporting a return to complete housing projects previously shelved.

The strong Euro exchange rate against the Sterling/pound has also caused changes in the market place. Equipment that was previously redundant on UK building sites was being sold to maintain capital. These machines were then being exported to satisfy an increasing need for plant equipment in Eastern Europe with the market made even more buoyant by the Euro exchange rate.

Auction Houses throughout the UK were reporting good sales figures with a large percentage of equipment leaving the country.

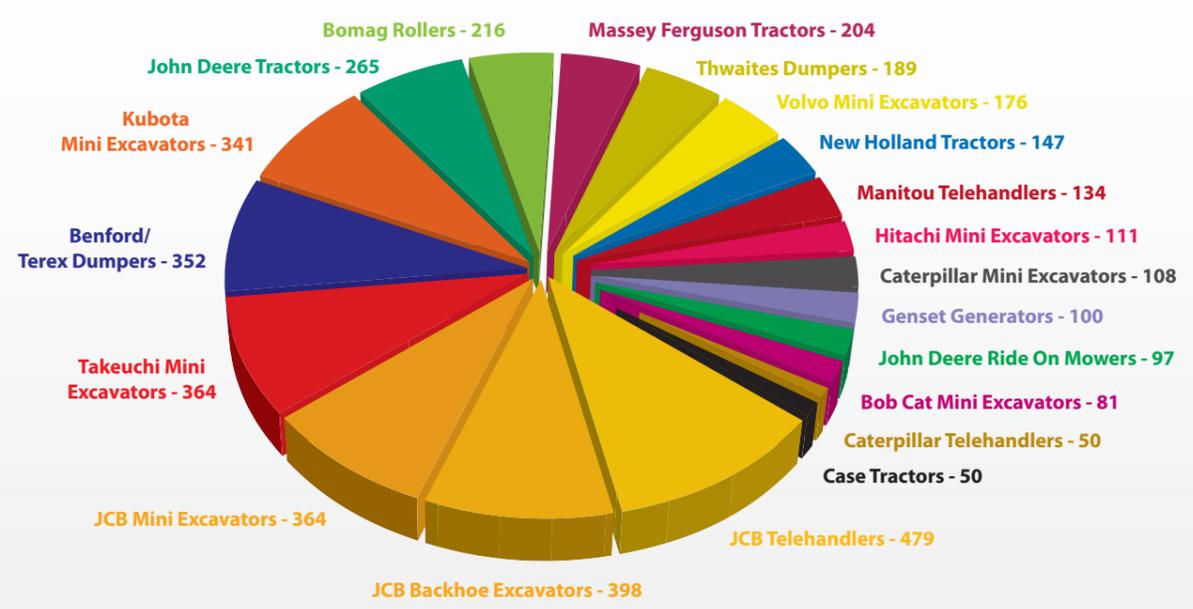
With very few new machines being sold by manufacturers over the past 12 months, shortfalls of equipment are starting to appear hence the increase in demand for new equipment. JCB has just announced that order books are full and all stock sold upto the third quarter, thus demand for certain machines is now high and may affect future theft rates.

PANIU is receiving constant intelligence of machines moving overseas. Agricultural machines especially tractors continue to be sought in Eastern Europe. The demand for John Deere tractors in Poland continue unabated. The demand for Case New Holland tractors to Eire has also led to higher than normal theft rates in Northern Ireland. Hitachi Excavators also appear to be particularly sought after south of the Border.

New markets are also emerging with a number of machines heading to the Middle East. PANIU recently intercepted a number of stolen machines heading to Beirut and has new intelligence of stolen UK machines now turning up in Afghanistan having crossed Europe from the UK.



Top Twenty Most Wanted (stolen branded products) Nationally (since Oct 08).



TOP 20 Thefts	Total	Total	
JCB Telehandlers	479	Volvo Mini Excavators	176
JCB Backhoe Excavators	398	New Holland Tractors	147
JCB Mini Excavators	364	Manitou Telehandlers	134
Takeuchi Mini Excavators	364	Hitachi Mini Excavators	111
Benford/ Terex Dumpers	352	Caterpillar Mini Excavators	108
Kubota Mini Excavators	341	Genset Generators	100
John Deere Tractors	265	John Deere Ride On Mowers	97
Bomag Rollers	216	Bob Cat Mini Excavators	81
Massey Ferguson Tractors	204	Caterpillar Telehandlers	50
Thwaites Dumpers	189	Case Tractors	50

Crime Analysis - Theft by Manufacturer

There has been an 10% increase in plant theft with an additional 131 equipment thefts over the last quarter compared to the previous reporting period of October – December 2009.

There has also been an increase in the theft of equipment made by other manufacturers. In previous periods just ten different manufacturers made 50% of all equipment stolen. For this quarter (Jan-Mar 2010) the share of the 'traditional' theft top ten has decreased 6%. To demonstrate this Atlas-Copco products now feature in the theft top ten for the first time since PANIU began collating statistics (six recording periods since Oct 2008).

Furthermore Takeuchi (2nd - 3rd - 3rd - 4th - 4th - 7th) and Benford-Terex (7th - 3rd - 5th - 6th - 6th - 10th) products have shown decreases virtually every quarter. JCB thefts interestingly have decreased 3%. It is worth noting that JCB and Takeuchi now fit CESAR as standard on all their products.

To demonstrate the continued interest in agricultural equipment Massey Ferguson and John Deere products currently represent 7% of all equipment theft. At the time of writing there has been a spate of thefts of these items in Lincolnshire (see regional thefts).

JAN-MAR 2010		
MANUFACTURER	TOT	%
JCB	192	17%
KUBOTA	52	5%
JOHN DEERE	42	4%
MASSEY FERGUSON	40	3%
CATERPILLAR	35	3%
BOMAG	32	3%
TAKEUCHI	31	3%
ATLAS COPCO	29	3%
VOLVO	28	2%
BENFORD (TEREX)	25	2%
OTHER	645	56%
TOTAL	1151	100%



Crime Analysis - Theft by Police Force Area

Thefts in Greater Manchester have decreased 3% compared to the previous reporting period. By contrast thefts in the MPS have risen 2% with its highest figures since PANIU began recording figures (up 31 offences on the previous quarter). The London figures may be down to better awareness within the MPS re circulating plant stolen.

It is apparent that proactive police operations have a dramatic effect on displaced crime. Force areas who had been previously suffering high theft rates showed significant reductions when targeting those criminal networks responsible. Thus Forces such as Surrey and Thames Valley who were previously suffering high theft rates but have continued proactively to target plant thieves have significantly reduced theft in their areas with Surrey previously the 3rd worst force now dropping totally out of the top ten.

The figures also demonstrate the displacement of crime soon after Force areas discontinue these efforts. Forces who had previously targeted these networks such as Hertfordshire and South Yorkshire are now returning to the top ten again once the police proactivity ceases and are showing increased thefts as a result.

Hertfordshire have returned to the top ten for the first time since Jan-Mar 2009. South Yorkshire is also back in the theft top ten for the first time since Oct-Dec 2008).

JAN-MAR 2010		
POLICE FORCE	TOT	%
METROPOLITAN POL	132	12%
GMP	66	6%
KENT	55	5%
WEST YORKSHIRE	48	4%
AVON & SOMERSET	46	4%
HERTFORDSHIRE	44	4%
THAMES VALLEY	37	3%
ESSEX	36	3%
SOUTH YORKSHIRE	34	3%
WEST MIDLANDS	34	3%
OTHER FORCE AREA	619	54%
TOTAL	1151	100%

Crime Analysis - Theft by Equipment Type

Despite the overall increase in equipment theft, Mini Excavator thefts are actually down 3% compared to the previous period, although they are still the number one most stolen item. Tractor thefts are also down 2% but are still the second most stolen item (2nd for five of the six reporting periods). Breakers and other Attachment thefts have also made a return to the top ten.

JAN-MAR 2010		
PLANT TYPE	TOT	%
MIN/COMPACT EX	196	17%
TRACTORS	142	12%
GENERATORS	130	11%
TELEHANDLER	92	8%
ATTACHMENTS	83	7%
DUMPER	75	7%
BACKHOE EX	44	4%
ROLLER	43	4%
COMPRESSOR	42	4%
EXCAVATORS	36	3%
OTHER ITEMS	268	23%
TOTAL	1151	100%

Crime Analysis - Theft by Region

There has been a significant increase in theft of equipment in the East Midlands and East Anglia region. In previous quarters this region has accounted for around 10% of thefts. In this quarter (Jan-Mar 2010) it stands at 15%. The vast open fenland area from Humberside down to Suffolk is probably the UK's current equipment theft hotspot.

JAN-MAR 2010		
REGIONAL CLUSTER	TOT	%
SOUTH EAST	350	30%
EAST MIDS & ANGLIA	168	15%
YORKSHIRE & NE	159	14%
NORTH WEST	115	10%
SOUTH WEST	113	10%
MIDLANDS	97	8%
SCOTLAND & NI	89	8%
WALES	32	3%
BTP & MOD	28	3%
TOTAL	1151	100%

CESAR - Current Theft and Recovery Rates.

It is promising that the greater proportion of construction equipment is now fitted with CESAR registration as standard. Over the last few months a number of Agricultural plant manufacturers have also decided to protect their equipment in this way. John Deere, McCormick and Landini have joined the CESAR scheme to protect owners property.

Since CESAR started in January 2007 over 30,000 pieces of equipment have become CESAR registered. To date only 251 items of equipment have been stolen that have been registered with CESAR. Of that figure currently 74 have now been recovered by Police. This gives a current recovery rate of 29.4%. The recovery rate of plant stolen prior to CESAR was 5%.



Supported by
Home Office



Police Operations

Operation Crassus

Operation Crassus is the Nationwide operation supported by both the National Roads Policing Intelligence Forum (NRPIF) and PANIU. The operation ran between Saturday 24th April 2010 and Sunday 9th May 2010. The primary aim was for a concerted effort by Police against the organised criminal networks stealing machinery and plant equipment from construction sites and farms throughout the United Kingdom.

Officers from the 43 forces concentrated efforts to tackle thieves moving plant equipment across the UK.

PANIU report increased police activity with operations coinciding on major road networks and particular attention being paid at Ports with checks to vehicles leaving the country. Assistance was given to officers with daily theft bulletins, circulations of suspect identification details, stolen vehicle checks, vehicle examinations and advice/assistance regarding ownership of equipment.

Other assistance including pre planned operations including the loan of specialist 'sting' machines for specialist deployments at no cost to Force areas were arranged.

NRPIF report that stolen property in excess of £1 million was recovered during the two week operation with most recoveries by South Yorkshire, Sussex and PANIU.

PANIU Operations

1 - Operation Norfolk. Search warrant executed in Milton Keynes. Subject arrested for handling stolen goods and money laundering. Items found at the search included pre fabricated plant equipment VIN plates and templates for manufacture stored on a hard drive seized at the address. Currently bailed pending further enquiries.

2 - Operation Marcian. Recoveries at the port of Felixstowe. Items of plant stolen from North London. 7 items in total with estimated value of £150,000. One suspect identified so far and further research being conducted in to other members of the criminal network.

Enquiries are on going in Dubai and the U.A.E where the equipment was due to be unloaded.

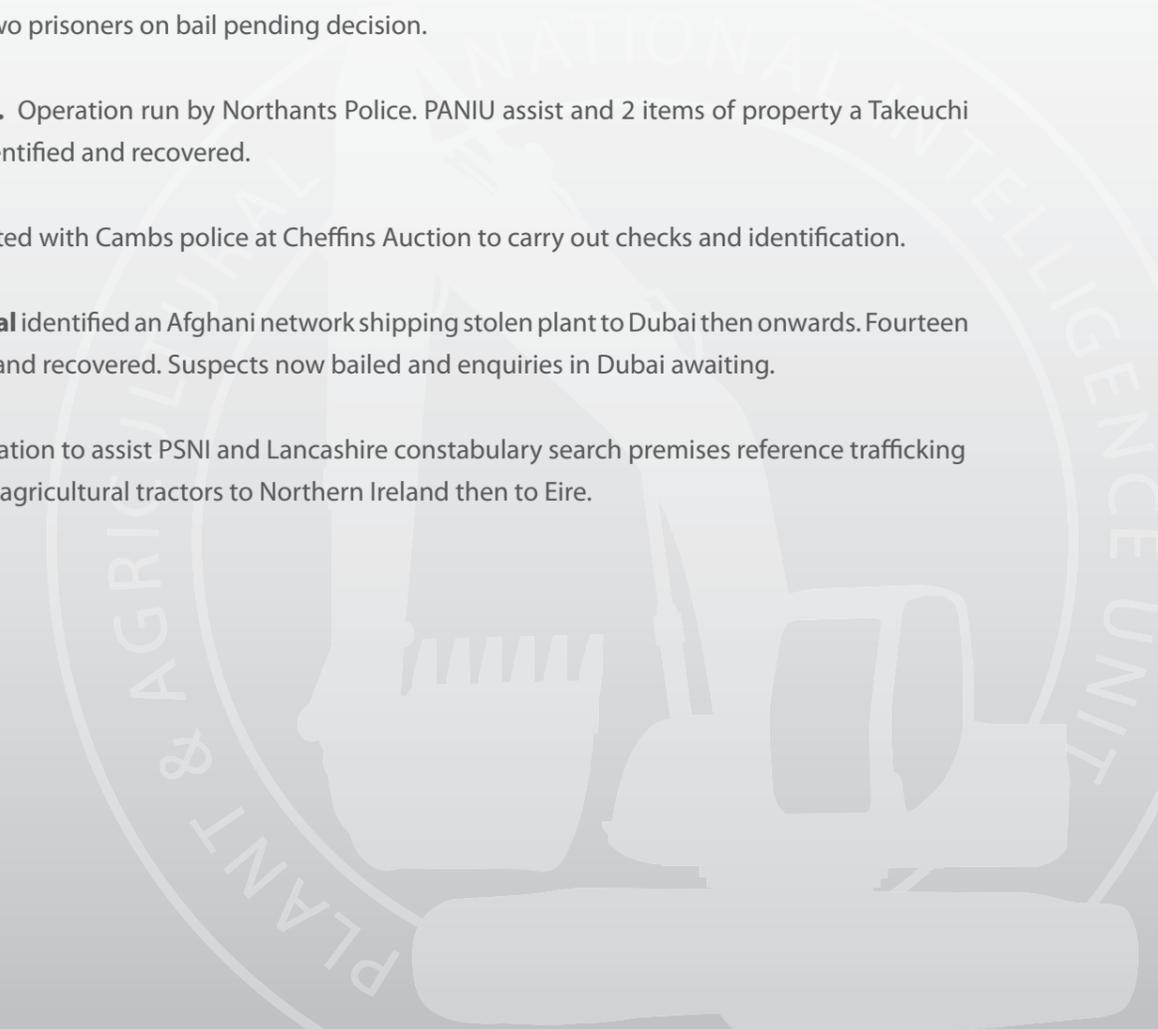
3 - OP Trapezoid relates to mini excavators and plant equipment offered for sale on Ebay. Property recovered and two prisoners on bail pending decision.

4 - OP Combine. Operation run by Northants Police. PANIU assist and 2 items of property a Takeuchi and a Kubota identified and recovered.

5 - The unit assisted with Cambs police at Cheffins Auction to carry out checks and identification.

6 - OP Metacarpal identified an Afghani network shipping stolen plant to Dubai then onwards. Fourteen items identified and recovered. Suspects now bailed and enquiries in Dubai awaiting.

7 - Two day operation to assist PSNI and Lancashire constabulary search premises reference trafficking stolen plant and agricultural tractors to Northern Ireland then to Eire.





Supported by Home Office



8 - Operation Lodestar. This is a PANIU/Sussex operation into a team stealing ring and exporting heavy machinery. A Cat D8 bulldozer that was stolen in Shoreham Sussex on 4.5.10. PANIU circulated the property to all ports and it was seen and stopped at Dartford River Crossing on the 6.5.10.

Enquiries revealed it was loaded at a yard in Kent. This premises was then searched with a warrant by PANIU on the 7.5.10. Three persons were arrested at the scene and are now bailed pending enquiries.



A search of the premises revealed another Cat 320 excavator that was also stolen from Sussex and a Volvo mini excavator stolen from Hampshire.



Also present was a CAT 966 loading shovel. At the time this was not reported stolen but PANIU recovered the equipment anyway. The machine was subsequently found to be stolen from Thames Valley on the night of the 6-7th May 2010.



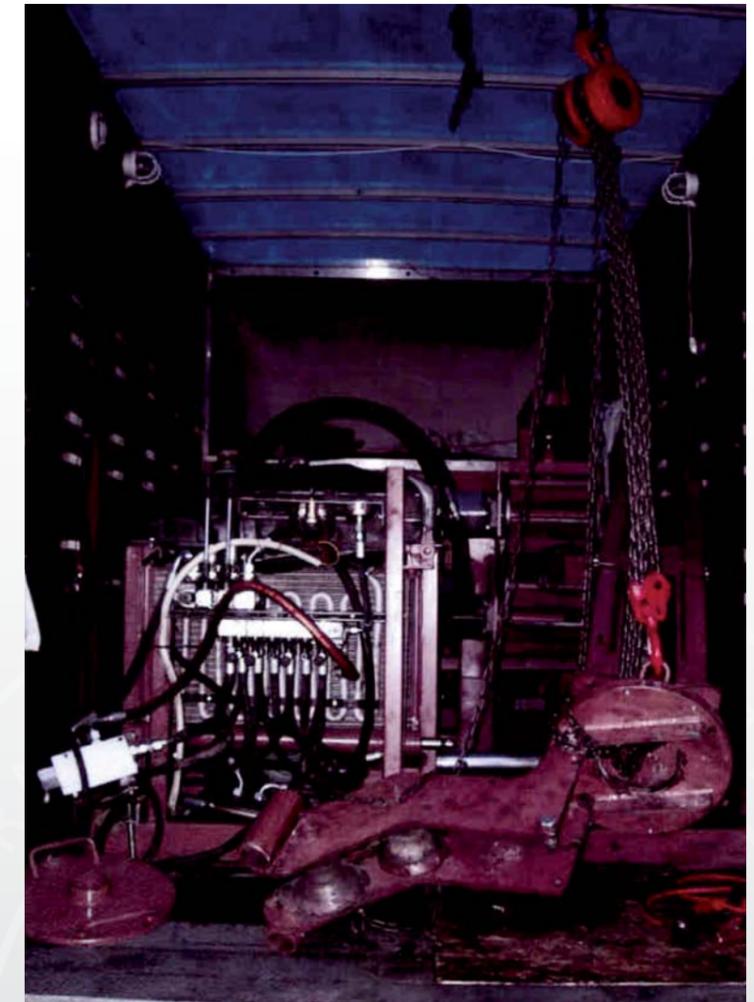
On the 11th May another CAT 966 loading shovel was stolen from Ilford. It is believed the thieves responsible were the same team as previous who were fulfilling an export order. As a result PANIU highlighted the theft and recovered this second Cat 966 nearby in fields.

A subsequent circulation was sent out to all national quarry and aggregate dealers to highlight the recent trend.

Total value of items recovered by PANIU to date now equates to £3,542,946.00.

Items of interest

The following item arrived at PANIU. It was a device especially fitted into the rear of a transit van. It had been especially adapted for use to steal underground network cables. A Mercedes engine was used to power up a capstan winch and a crane arm. Hydraulic rams had been welded to the floor to create purchase.





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*



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



If you have any information on the theft of machinery or require advice, then contact the...

Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

on tel: 020 7230 7290

or fax: 020 7230 7754

or email: paniu@met.police.uk

Alternatively you can speak to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111





Plant Theft - The Real Truth

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

Supported by
Home Office



Association of
Chief Police Officers



Thatcham®
Accredited
Whole of Vehicle Marking



Construction Plant
hirers Association



Construction Equipment Association



Agricultural Engineers Association



Plant Theft Action Group



Call anonymously with information about crime

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



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