

Tracker<sup>TM</sup>



Daniel Johnston-Leigh  
*Sales Director*



Steve Whittaker  
*Police Liaison Manager*



**Keyless Theft Trends**  
VRA Member Meeting

# Current Situation



## Vehicle Theft has increased by 74% in 10 years

**70,216**

Vehicles stolen in  
year ending  
March 2015

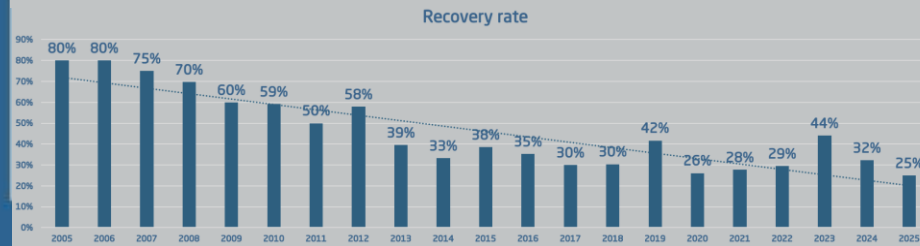
**121,825**

Vehicles stolen in  
year ending  
March 2025

**Up 74%**



## Recovery Rate declined from 80% to 25% since 2005



## Impact Of Theft On Insurance Premiums



**293% increase in 3 years**

# Criminals are becoming more sophisticated

Era of the 'Joy Rider'

1980s

Burglary to steal keys

1990s

Key Cloning & Jamming

2000s

Keyless theft 'Relay Attack'

2020-

# Common Theft Methods

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Relay Attack



OBD Compromise



GPS Jamming



Key Cloning



Auto Decoder



Code Grabber



Can-Bus Attack



Burglary

# Common Theft Devices

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# Risks to Remarketing Sector

## High Value Stock = High Attractiveness

- Compounds, lock-ups, prep centres, auction sites are all beacons to car thieves.
- Cars are typically stolen 'to order': more stock = higher likelihood of thief finding the right vehicle.

## Key Custody at scale creates human error

- Key racks, key safes, desks, valeters, contractors, collection agents, all create risk.
- Misplaced keys, poor audit trails, weak controls all result in losses.

## Collection Agents taking vehicles home

- Vehicles sat outside unfamiliar houses, on street or driveways, creates risk.
- Criminals notice patterns; if they regularly see different, high value vehicles on an Agent's driveway, they'll potentially start to target them for keyless theft.

## Auction Days

- Criminals only need a moment of distraction for keys to be mishandled.
- Thieves can 'case' a vehicle, clone keys, grab codes, all before coming back to steal.
- Social engineering – busy environment, high volume of new faces, all a breeding ground for fraud and confusion.

## Contractor Risk

- High turnover of short-term labour / Third parties with legitimate access.
- Access to grab codes, clone keys, come back later.

## Reputational/Relationship Risk

- Lease Cos, funders, OEMs etc need to be able to trust their Remarketing partners.
- Incidents resulting in lost assets, insurance claims or disputes can severely damage relationships.

# Key Actions to take Right Now

## Key Management

- Single controlled key storage – Strict sign in/out.
- Daily reconciliation & exception reporting.
- Faraday pouches / armored key cabinets must be used.

## Reduce Overnight Exposure

- Avoid vehicles being taken home by agents where possible.
- If unavoidable, use Trackers, faraday pouches, regular checks by agents.

## Layered Security at Compounds

- Controlled entry/exit, strong perimeter, lighting, CCTV.
- Zoned storage: Higher-risk vehicles in inner secure areas.

## Tighten Auction Day Processes

- Keep keys separate and controlled.
- Keys kept locked away / in pouches.
- Maintain vigilance and security protocols.

## Security Updates

- Where possible, ensure any vehicles in your possession have had all relevant security updates.

## Be aware of the risks!

- Keep up to date on which vehicles are being stolen – and by which methods.
- Fit covert Trackers to high-risk vehicles whilst in compound and in transit for extra security.
- Reinforce diligence in all processes – locking, handovers, ID checks etc.

# Relay Attack

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# Tracker Stolen Vehicle Recovery Case Study



## A common threat

- Vehicle theft is up 74% in a decade, from 70k vehicles in FY15 to 122k in FY25.
- Vehicle recovery is at a 20 year low – just 25% compared with 80% in 2005.

## The keyless curse

- Keyless theft remains one of the key theft methods used by criminals.
- 97% of vehicles which Tracker recovered in 2025 were stolen *without keys*.
- OEMs have spent millions of pounds on security - which has quickly been thwarted.

## Hygiene is key

- Robust processes help to minimize risk.
- Supplementary security solutions like faraday pouches and Trackers may also help.
- **Vigilance is important!**

