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# Act Consumer & Trade Protection

Act Consumer
& Trade Protection

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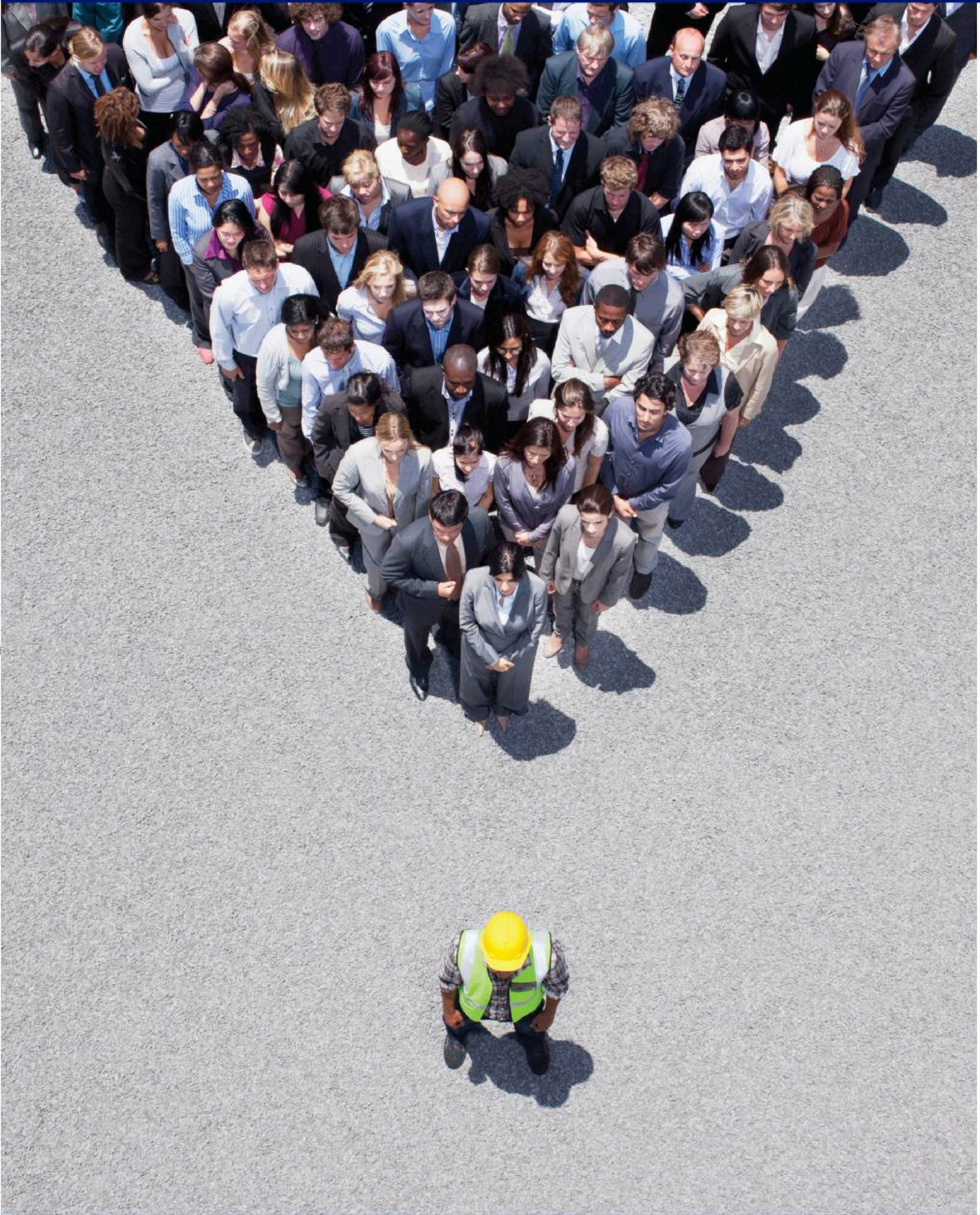
Thank you for your support, together we can make difference.

# Contents



# Introduction

**What does your business mean to you? It allows you to house, clothe, feed and enjoy life with your family. It enables you, through sheer hard work, to be proud of what you do and what you have built for yourself, and what you are able to leave for your family. It is your future, their future, and it is who you are.**

But in a moment it can be devastated. Whether it is an armed robbery, an act of mindless vandalism, a violent attack, or any number of situations that can range from being detrimental to life changing for you and your business, this happens every day to honest, hardworking business owners here in the UK.

Well actions such as this need a response. A response whereby we can inform and educate business owners on the steps that they can take to minimise the impact of crime on their livelihood. A response that will give you the confidence that you have taken all the appropriate steps you can to avoid becoming another statistic. A response that will help you to enjoy your work, rather than looking over your shoulder.

There is no way to be 100% free of crime. With every action, the criminals have a reaction. Whilst many are opportunistic, some are career criminals who specialise in wrecking the careers of others. What you must do though, is know that you are not an easy target; criminals love low hanging fruit, so with a combination of our magazine and our social media, we will be taking a real-time look at the problems affecting business owners in the UK in all sectors.

We will encourage you to act upon our advice which is gleaned from experience and from experts, and together, we will form an effective team that will give criminals a very real challenge. We see many instances of business owners who may have installed systems such as CCTV, alarms, tracking devices and locks that were robust at the time, but have been superseded by far superior ones. Criminals prey on outdated devices such as these and can often easily overcome them.

As well as crimes against businesses, Act Consumer & Trade Protection is also working against businesses that are criminal! The actions of rogue traders serve to undermine public confidence in honest businesspeople, and we are highlighting the danger signs for consumers which will allow your business to be seen as exemplary and trustworthy.

Our actions, our intent, and our ability to constantly follow crime trends means that Act Consumer & Trade Protection will ensure you are one step ahead of those that act to undermine everything that you have built, and work hard for. Together we embody a team to be reckoned with. Together, we will keep you safe.

# Choosing the Right Trader

**Renovations on your property will improve your living space and usually add significant value to your investment. Unfortunately for too many people, this exercise has resulted in the opposite. choosing the right firm to carry out the work can be a minefield, and if you make a mistake then you may be left many thousands of pounds out of pocket, living in a property that is unsafe and, facing many days of misery and stress.**

At Act Consumer & Trade Protection Magazine, we have spoken to dozens of people that have been on the receiving end of hiring an unsuitable company to carry out work on their property and sadly, these people constitute a very small proportion of the huge numbers of people that have suffered at the hands of cowboy builders.

Far from painting a picture of all allied trades being corrupt, we are simply seeking to encourage the importance of choosing the right people for the job. Don't be flippant when making your choice and, if you follow our guidelines, you are likely to be living safely and happily in the dream home that you wanted.

### The Knock at the Door

We have all had them – a trader knocking on the door and asking if you need any work, or even pointing out to you that they have observed an issue with your property that they are willing to put right for you. The pitches that they give can be convincing and clever and year upon year, thousands of people fall prey to them. Worryingly, many of them have become professional not in the way they carry out their work, but in the timing they use to trap people. After particularly bad weather for example, you may have someone tell you that you have lost roof tiles, or that your guttering is damaged. They may also claim to have recently carried out some work locally and finished early, meaning that they have the manpower and materials to complete your work at a competitive rate. It will all sound convincing, but never make a decision on the spot! Instead, be aware of the tell-tale signs that may indicate the work will be substandard, dangerous, and incomplete or simply a rip off.


# What to do and what to look out for...

### The Price

If you aren't familiar with the cost of a job then you are unlikely to know what constitutes a decent price. The golden rule is to contact at least three firms to ask them to price a job, that way you are able to make an informed decision as to whether the price is too high. Similarly, if a firm offers a price that is too low then this is often a warning sign! The old adage of "buy cheap, buy twice" is worth remembering.

### The Payment Terms

A recurring theme with many rogue traders is that they will request payment in cash, there will be no VAT, and the quote won't be submitted in writing. You need to consider if this is how a reputable company would conduct their business. In fact, quite simply, a legitimate company would categorically not do this. It is indicative of someone trying to avoid paying tax on their work which in itself is the mark of a criminal – is this who you want to carry out your work for you? If they are happy to cheat the tax man, they could be equally happy to cheat you! Bear in mind that if you make a payment via a credit card then there is always the chance to reclaim some money back from the credit card provider. Also, if you do prefer to pay cash, always ask for a receipt.

### A Lack of References

All legitimate businesses pride themselves on the work that they have done for others, and will wear references like a badge of honour. Any reliable and proper trader will always provide checkable references upon request and if they are unwilling to do so then you must draw the conclusion that this is because they haven't done a good enough job for someone to be willing to provide a reference!

### The Details of the Business

The devil is in the detail. Look for danger signs – are their vehicles branded with a company logo, name and number? Are they happy to provide a registered business address? Are they members of a trade association? If they claim to be then do some homework and contact the trade association to ensure that they are telling the truth. You should also be conscious of other small signs such as their attire – ok, so a builder or plumber is unlikely to wear a suit, but do they look scruffy and unprofessional? If they start work on your property are they punctual? Do they seem to have an inconsistency with their workforce such as different faces every day? Professional traders will usually work with a reliable and trusted workforce.

### The Contract

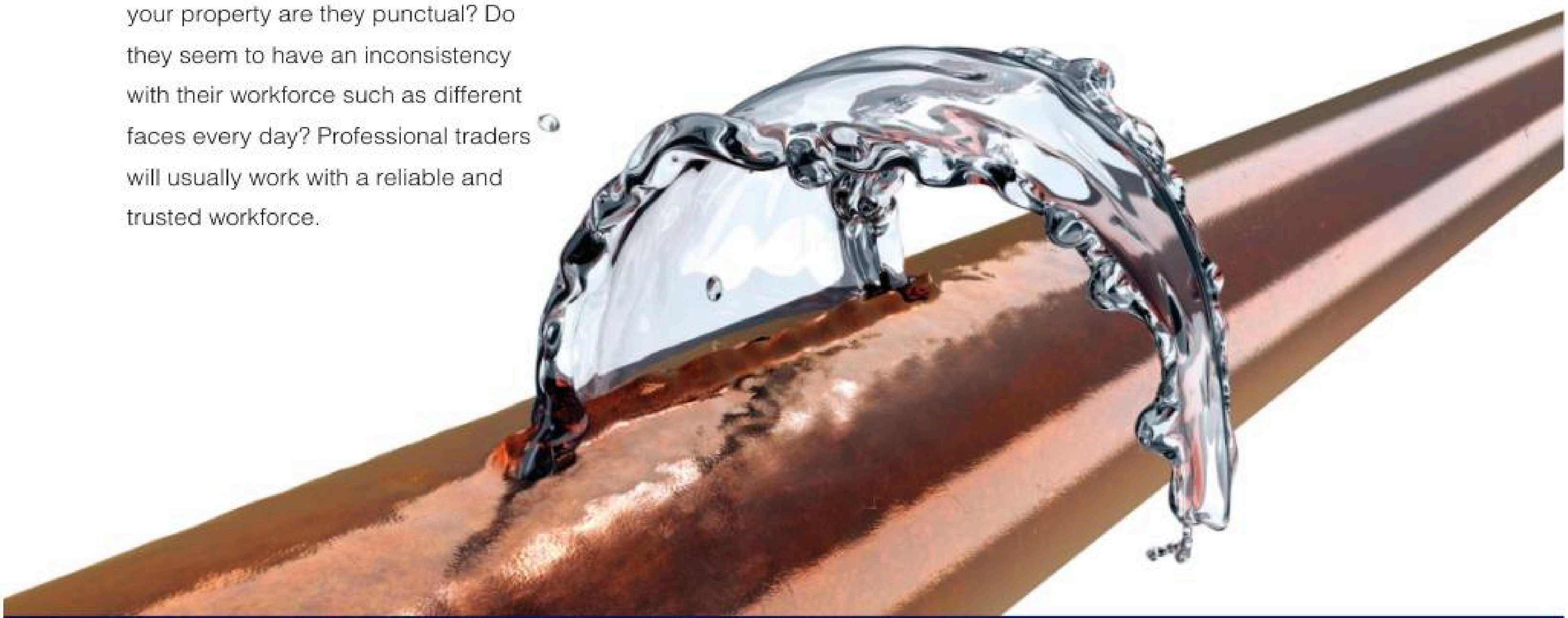
You must always get things put in black and white, from estimates to timescales and a legally binding contract. Without these, you may be looking at being overcharged, or the firm dragging out the completion of the work over a ridiculous length of time, often because they are doing several jobs at once and not prioritising any of them. The worse case scenarios are that they won't complete the work, or could blatantly deny that there was ever an agreement in the first place after taking your cash.
Another issue with not having a secured quote and contract is that many rogue traders will start to identify additional problems with your property and offer to repair them for you. Of course it may be that you do have problems elsewhere on your property, but this can also be a ploy to push you over any agreed price. If they do offer to do additional work then this must also necessitate a contract.

### Health and Safety

Any professional trader will be trained in and familiar with health and safety concerns. Disregard for the dangers involved in their work could not only endanger the workers, but also you and your family and pets. If you feel uncomfortable with the way they are working then you should be concerned that you aren't dealing with a reputable trader.

### The Quality of the Work

Don't be blinded by science! If they tell you that something is right, even if it doesn't look so, then trust your instincts. We've heard of cases where



nails were left sticking out and even doors hung the wrong way up! Check on their work as they do it and take photographs if you are unsure of the quality.

So these are all excellent tips on how to avoid getting the wrong builder, but how do you go about getting a good one in the first place? If you have made the decision to get renovations or improvements made on your property then rather than waiting for the wrong person to show up at your door, you will need to do a little research. Trust us; the time you spend doing so will go a long way towards saving you stress and money!

### Ask People you Know

A great starting point for finding somebody trustworthy to do your work is to ask someone that you know and trust already. If you know someone close to you that you can rely on for a referral then ask the question. Anyone you know that has recently had a similar project done should be able to give you an honest opinion of the firm that carried it out. You should ask about the quality of the work, their punctuality, and the price, and of course if it is a friend or family member you can visit them to see the work yourself.

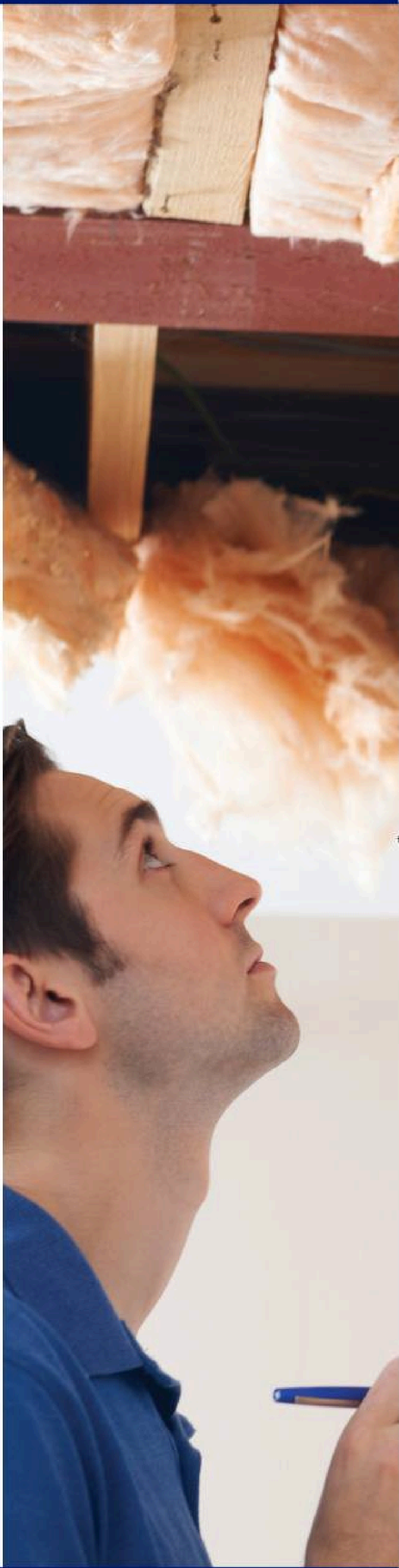
The same applies to asking work colleagues but be cautious of people who may not want to admit that they have had poor work carried out for fear of feeling foolish. Having got the details of the firm, always refer to the advice in this article to ensure you feel comfortable agreeing to a job.

### Recommendations from other Traders

If you have previously used an electrician, builder, plumber etc on your property then ask them if they know someone they would recommend. The majority of good traders will have experience of working with people in other trades and will know who is good and who isn't.

### Online

There are now a number of online sites where you can source a good tradesperson. They have a search facility whereby you can enter your location and the nature of the work required, and some will even be able to give a quote and offer references online. Many trade associations will have a directory of their approved members too which can give you the confidence that you are dealing with the right person for the job. Once you have found someone in your area, check out their website – does it look professional? Are there any testimonials or pictures of their work?



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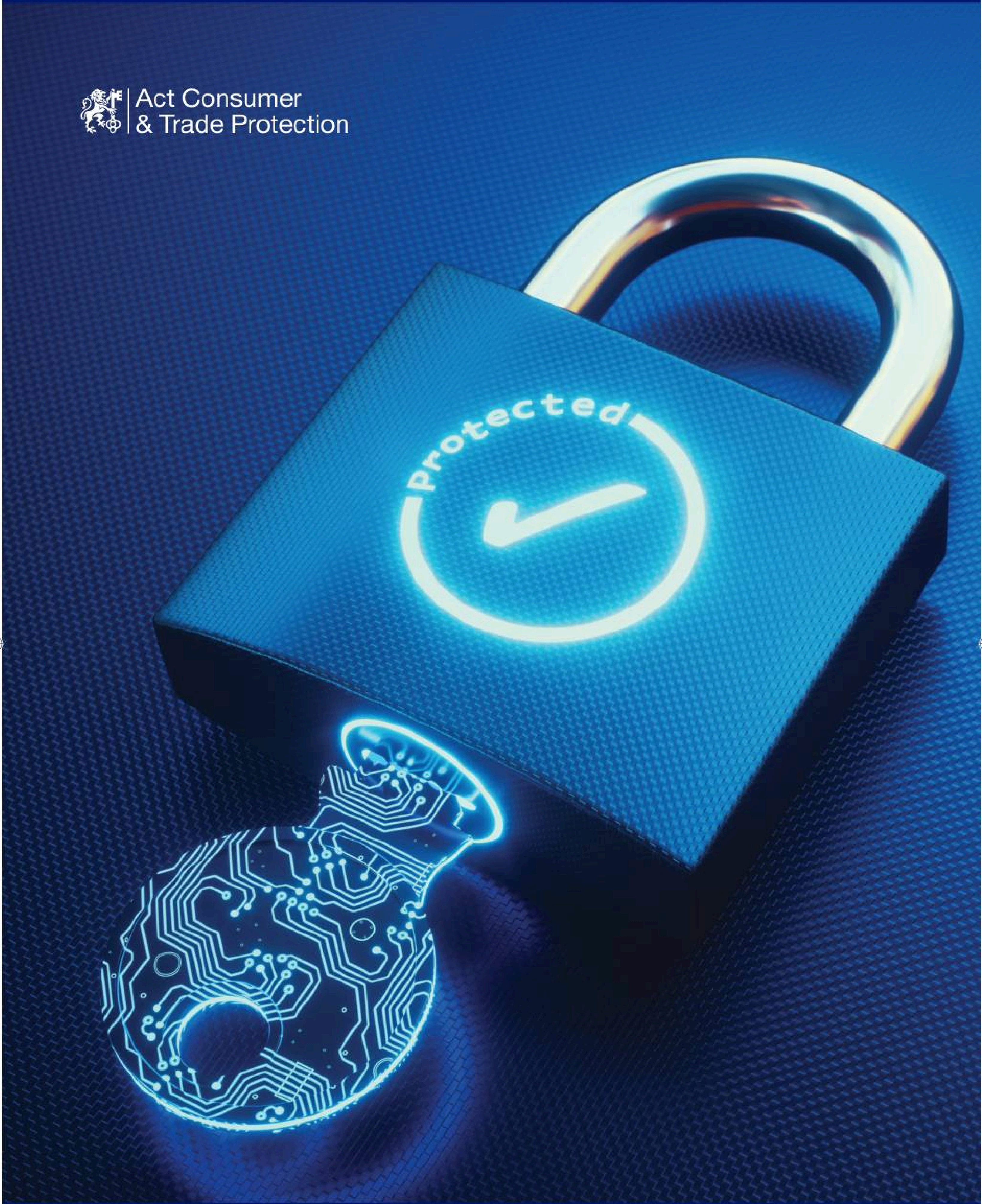
Act Consumer
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Protected

# Cyber Sense

Small business owners are overwhelmingly on the receiving end of cyber attacks. It's a mind blowing fact that every second, more than 77 terabytes of internet traffic takes place online, and this makes for a very busy road which exists to facilitate all aspects of modern life and business. Unfortunately, this road is also beset by highwaymen looking to seize opportunities to profit from unsuspecting users.

Over the past few years, the media has shown us headlines spotlighting crippling cyberattacks against major corporations. While each corporate cyberattack resulted in millions of pounds in damage, most stories fail to mention the huge amount of data breaches that affect much softer targets: small businesses. The very nature of cyberattacks means that you will often not know when the next strike could occur, but what you can do is take proper precautions to hamper a hacker's attempt at gaining access to your client list, bank details or employee information.

**Why Small Businesses are Perceived as a Soft Target**

For many small business owners there are many things to consider when setting up. Tools, vehicle, office or workshop, the list is long. Unfortunately, many new starters omit to include cybersecurity on this list. They may well have considered CCTV, alarms and other security so why not cybersecurity? The problem is that many small business owners often underestimate their risk level, they may feel that they don't have anything worth stealing, or that hackers will only focus on larger organisations, however it is this assumption that can leave many people wide open to an attack.
SME's can often fall into a hackers' cybersecurity sweet spot since they have more digital assets to target than an individual consumer has, but less security than a larger business. This is exactly what cyber criminals are looking for!

**What to Look Out for**

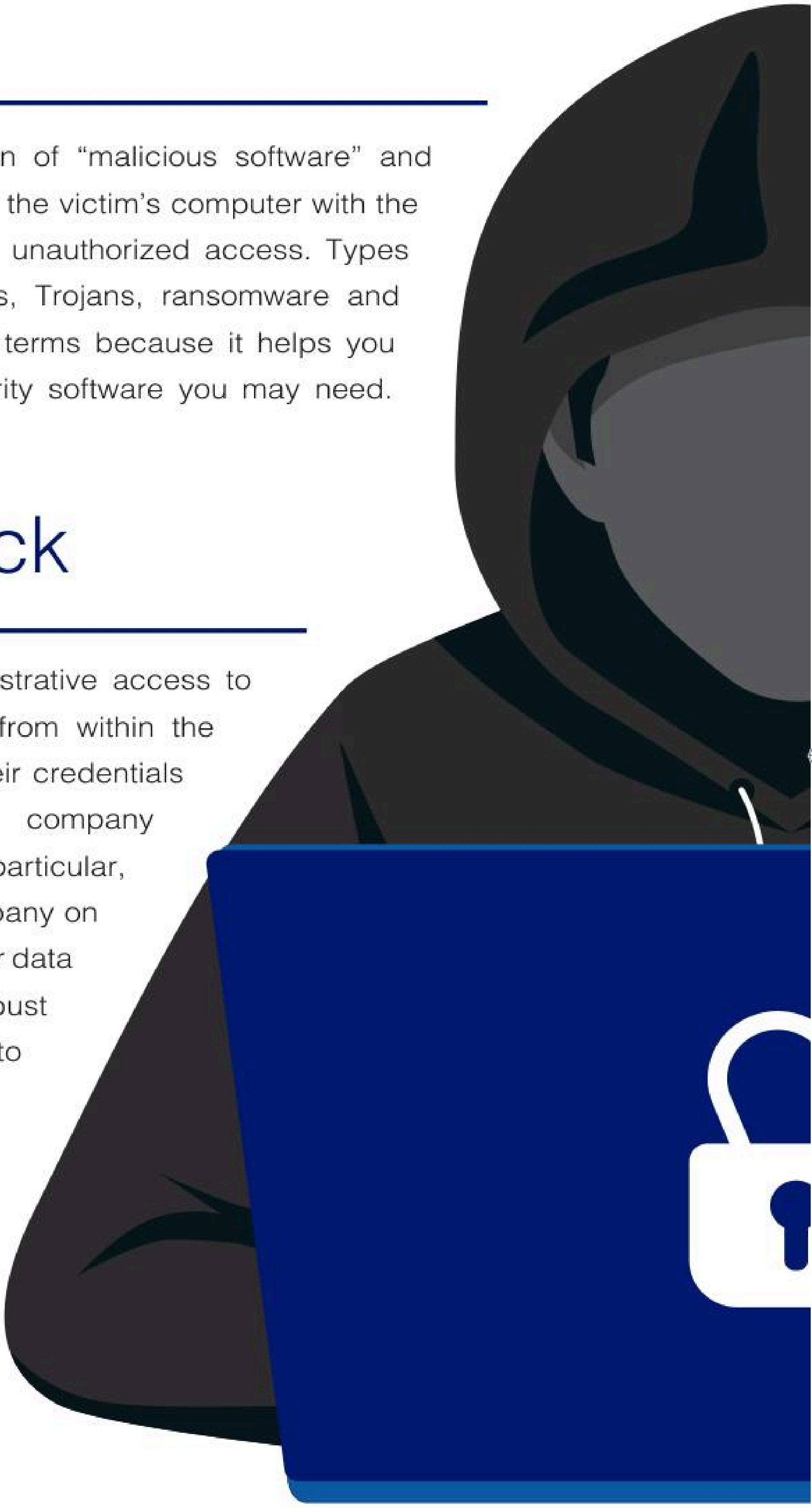
Think about the amount of data that you hold on your devices. You have your own bank details, you may have the bank or credit card details of your customers and your employees. You could have their personal contact details – would these be of value to a hacker? Of course they would. Identities can be cloned and used in damaging ways, and of course if your information is accessed then the damage to your reputation could be catastrophic. Imagine having to contact all of your clients and staff to tell them that their information has been stolen by a hacker due to your carelessness.
One of the best ways to mitigate against an attack is to understand the many different methods hackers generally use to access information. The following is far from an exhaustive list of potential threats, since cybercrime is constantly evolving, business owners should at least be aware of the following types of attacks.

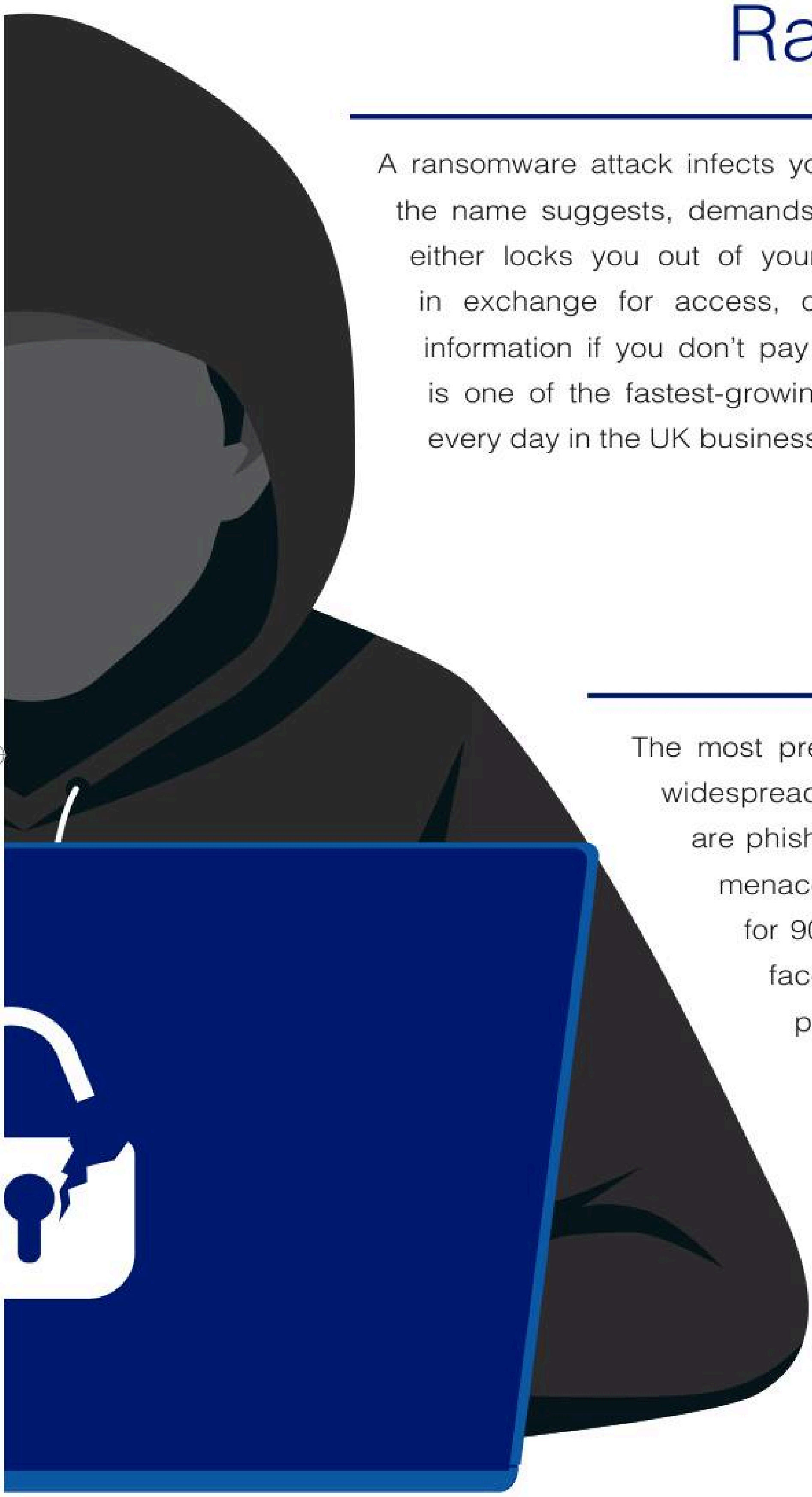
# Malware

This umbrella term is a contraction of "malicious software" and covers any program introduced into the victim's computer with the intention to cause damage or gain unauthorized access. Types of malware include viruses, worms, Trojans, ransomware and spyware. You need to know these terms because it helps you determine what type of cybersecurity software you may need.

# Inside Attack

This is when someone with administrative access to your devices or systems, usually from within the organization, purposely misuses their credentials to gain access to confidential company information. Former employees, in particular, present a threat if they left the company on bad terms, or realise the value of your data to a competitor. You should have a robust system in place to revoke all access to company data immediately when an employee leaves, and also to block staff from downloading, emailing, or storing sensitive data on a pen drive. You should include the implications of data theft into any employee contract and ensure staff training is carried out regularly.





# Ransomware

A ransomware attack infects your machine with malware and, as the name suggests, demands a ransom. Typically, ransomware either locks you out of your computer and demands money in exchange for access, or it threatens to publish private information if you don't pay a specified amount. Ransomware is one of the fastest-growing types of security breaches and every day in the UK business owners are paying these ransoms.

# Phishing

The most prevalent, most damaging and most widespread threat facing small businesses are phishing attacks. Phishing attacks are a menace to small businesses and account for 90% of all breaches that businesses face. They occur when an attacker pretends to be a trusted contact, and entices a user to click a malicious link, download a malicious file, or give them access to sensitive information, account details or credentials.

### How to Stay Safe

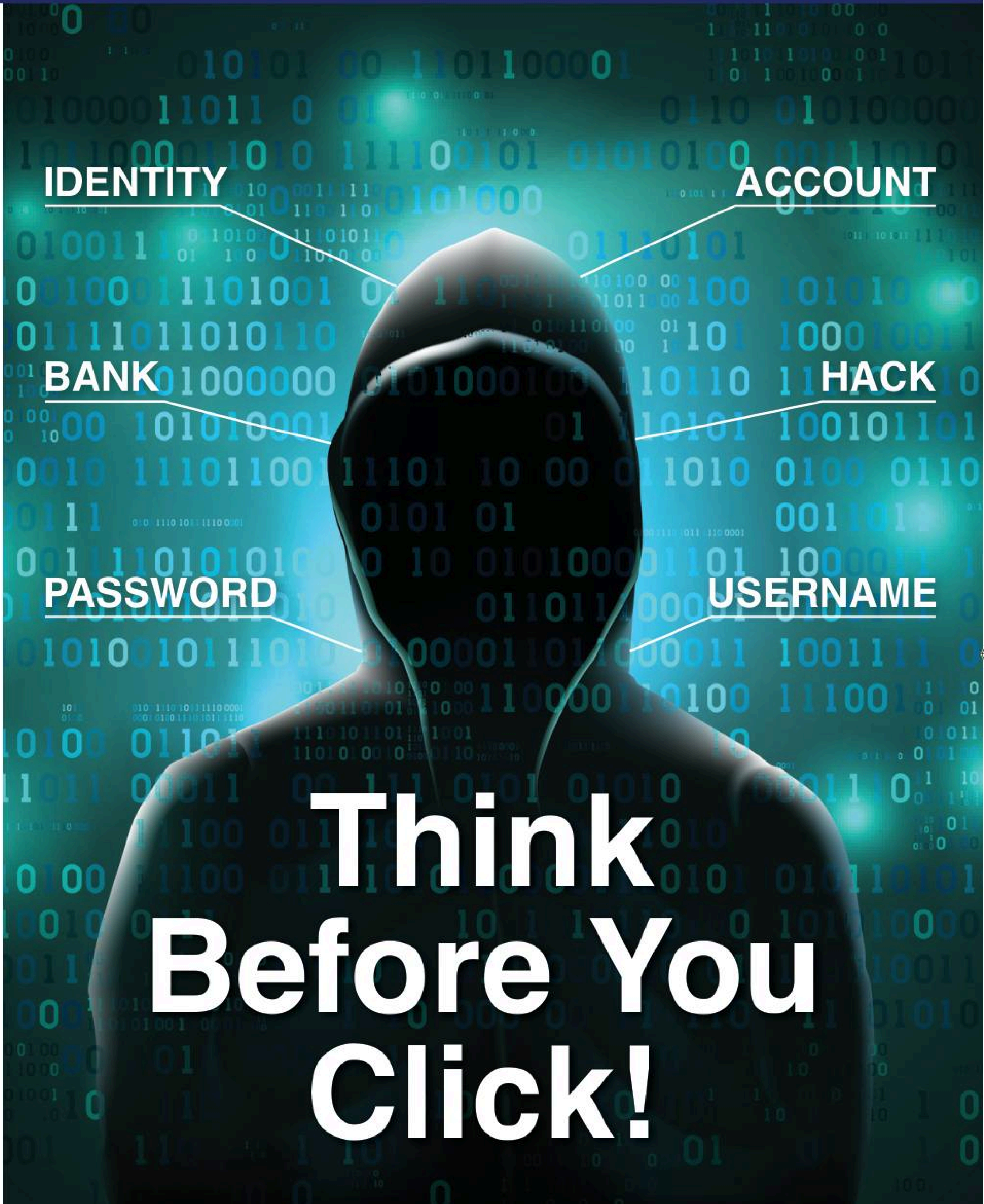
For small businesses looking to ensure that their networks have at least a fighting chance against many attacks, that generally means installing any number of basic types of security software available on the market, each with varying levels of efficacy. Antivirus software is the most common and will defend against most types of malware. A hardware- or software-based firewall can provide an added layer of protection by preventing an unauthorized user from accessing a computer or network. Most modern operating systems, including Windows 10, come with a firewall program installed for free.

### Steps to Take

The first, and most obvious, is data backup. This will ensure that any information compromised or lost during a breach can easily be recovered from an alternate location. Remember that if you are keeping data on an external drive, this too should be subject to the same security as your other systems. Another simple but important step is encryption software to protect sensitive data.. You should also be conscious of keeping your software up to date. Hackers are constantly scanning for security vulnerabilities, and if you let these weaknesses go on for too long, you will be greatly increasing your chances of being targeted.

### Training

Educate your employees. Teach your employees about the different ways cybercriminals can infiltrate your systems. Advise them on how to recognize signs of a breach and educate them on how to stay safe while using your business's electronic devices. Putting in place and enforcing security policies is essential to locking down your system. Protecting the network should be on everyone's mind since everyone who uses it can be a potential endpoint for attackers. Regularly hold meetings and seminars on the best cybersecurity practices, such as using strong passwords, identifying and reporting suspicious emails, and clicking links or downloading attachments. Your biggest mistake could be assuming that your staff already know about these things!

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# LOOK OUT
## Rogue Traders About

**Don’t deal with people who call at your front door**

**If you feel unsafe call the POLICE on 101**

# ATTENTION

# NO FLY TIPPING

## MAXIMUM PENALTY

# £50,000

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**AND/OR UP TO A FIVE YEAR CUSTODIAL SENTENCE**

Fly tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act (1990)

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for more information go to... **www.actprotection.co.uk**

# CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE RISK OF SCAMS!

# Cashing in on a Crisis

**In early 2020 the world as we knew it, changed. The human race suddenly needed to adapt to a global threat, the like of which no-one alive had ever experienced. Covid-19 spread like a wildfire throughout the planet and we all had to live our lives a little differently to avoid catching it, but as we altered the way we worked and socialized, it wasn't just a way of life that was changing.**

It didn't take long for criminals to adapt during the pandemic. Slowly at first, then with alarming alacrity, the criminal underworld began to capitalise on the changes we were all making. They were swiftly using a global catastrophe to hit businesses and consumers in the pocket, providing a chilling insight into just how low they will go to take our data, our identities and our cash and valuables.

Businesses, often having more resources than individuals, were particularly targeted from the outset of the situation and continue to be on the receiving end of a wide range of coronavirus related scams.

Here are some of the now common methods being used to dupe your business.

**Phishing emails**

Cyber criminals are using phishing e-mails, websites and text messages to scam businesses out of large sums of money and sensitive information.

Reports have been flooding in of coronavirus-themed phishing emails which attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments which could lead to the criminals stealing a business's data such as personal information of customers and staff, e-mail logins and passwords, and banking details.

## A number of the tactics being used in these e-mails include:

Con artists who profess to be from research groups that mimic the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organisation (WHO). They claim to provide a list of active infections in their area, but to access this information the victim needs to either:

- Click on a link that redirects them to a page that gathers personal information to aid identity theft.
- Make a direct donation to support those affected by the pandemic in the form of a payment into a Bitcoin account.
- Hackers using fake Covid-19 hotspot maps to put computer viruses onto your devices.
- Sending articles about the virus outbreak with a link to a false company website where victims are encouraged to click to subscribe to a daily newsletter for further updates. Again, these will either steal your personal information or infect your computer or phone.
- Sending investment scheme and trading advice, encouraging people to take advantage of the coronavirus downturn. The scammers often use tempting titles on the emails.
- Scammers purporting to be from HMRC, offering your business a tax refund and directing you to a fake website to collect financial details

about you and your company. The e-mails often display the HMRC logo, making it look genuine and convincing.

### Online shopping scams

Criminals are sending e-mails to businesses offering fake medical supplies. Business owners, quite rightly wanting the best for themselves, their staff and their customers have fallen victim to online shopping scams where they have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser, and other products that either never arrive, or are fake and unfit for purpose with some even containing banned or harmful ingredients. There have also been a number of cases where fake testing kits have been offered for sale. These scams are particularly horrible in that it can give people the confidence that they are taking measures against contracting or spreading the virus, when in fact they not giving the level of protection promised.

### Loan sharks

Loan sharks are illegal money lenders who charge extortionate interest rates and fees and use threats and violence against their victims. They take advantage of, and profit from, other people's hardship. Many are known to be offering "crisis loans" to businesses affected by the pandemic, which for many business owners has seemed too good an opportunity to pass on. If you are planning on borrowing money, use the Financial Conduct Authority register to check the lender is authorised.

### Deep cleaning

There have been recorded cases of scammers contacting businesses and offering a "deep clean" service to remove the possibility of Covid-19 from your business premises to increase customer confidence. In some of these cases, the fraudsters attempt to take a pre-payment over the telephone, alternatively they have even been known to visit the business in a work vehicle (with some even having cleaning service branding on them) and carrying out the "deep clean" with substandard materials that are inadequate for the service they are claiming. This is not only fraudulent but also dangerous.

Of course, hygiene is absolutely vital during the pandemic, however if you are going to have your business premises thoroughly cleaned you should avoid cold callers and only use a reputable company.

### Bogus Officials

Criminals are known to often impersonate people and organisations you trust, even the Police and Government. They spend hours researching for their scams, in order to make you believe what they are saying, and even a brief moment with your guard down is often enough for their scam to be successful. If your business premises is attended by someone claiming to be an official, whether it is from the council, the police or any other organisation, insist on seeing ID and make a phone call to validate their credentials. Fraudsters are known to have been making such visits in order to access the building for any number of reasons from looking for security weaknesses for a future break in, to seizing cash, goods or identities.



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# Vandalism
## What is it?

Vandalism is best described as being an action that involves deliberate destruction of, or damage to public or private property. It covers a wide range of actions, some of which can be devastating to a business. There are others which are often perceived as "mischief" rather than an act of crime, however as we see in this article, all incidents of vandalism will have an impact on the recipient.

## Types of vandalism

- Graffiti
- Dumping rubbish
- Setting small fires
- Smashing windows
- Damaging buildings or other structures
- Damage to vehicles, property and the surrounding area

Whilst there is an undeniable aesthetic appeal to works by artists such as Banksy, it is fair to say that the type of graffiti that most businesses are subjected to is far from appealing. For many businesses, a curb appeal is important to attract customers and give an immediate and lasting impression of the company. If this impression is tarnished by obscenities, "tags" etc. then it has been shown to have a serious impact on the business. Similarly, if someone has dumped litter, or fly tipped outside a business premises then it certainly won't add any appeal; so after every act of this type of vandalism, the owner of the company will either personally have to clean up the mess, or pay for someone to do it, meaning a moment of ignorance by the perpetrator has instantly turned away customers and cost the business a significant sum of money both in lost custom and expenditure of time or cash.

The financial cost of vandalism doesn't stop there though. Dumped rubbish can often attract acts of arson which can obviously destroy a building and endanger life, and physical damage to buildings and vehicles can of course cost tens of thousands of pounds. Physical damage can range from scratching or "keying" a vehicle, to smashing windows, placing glue in keyholes, even throwing eggs – it all costs time and money to clean or fix.

Research has repeatedly indicated that upon finding an act of vandalism that they perceive as being trivial, they won't bother to report it to the police. Business owners may feel that it could take more time out of their day to make a report than it would to clean up some mess or fix some minor damage. Many also feel that they could be wasting the police's time, and that the report would be trivialised by the police. If there are no systems in place to record the crime then a lack of evidence is also a problem, and of course in some areas – even if the victim may know who committed the crime, they may feel that the criminals will target them again if they are taken to task over it.

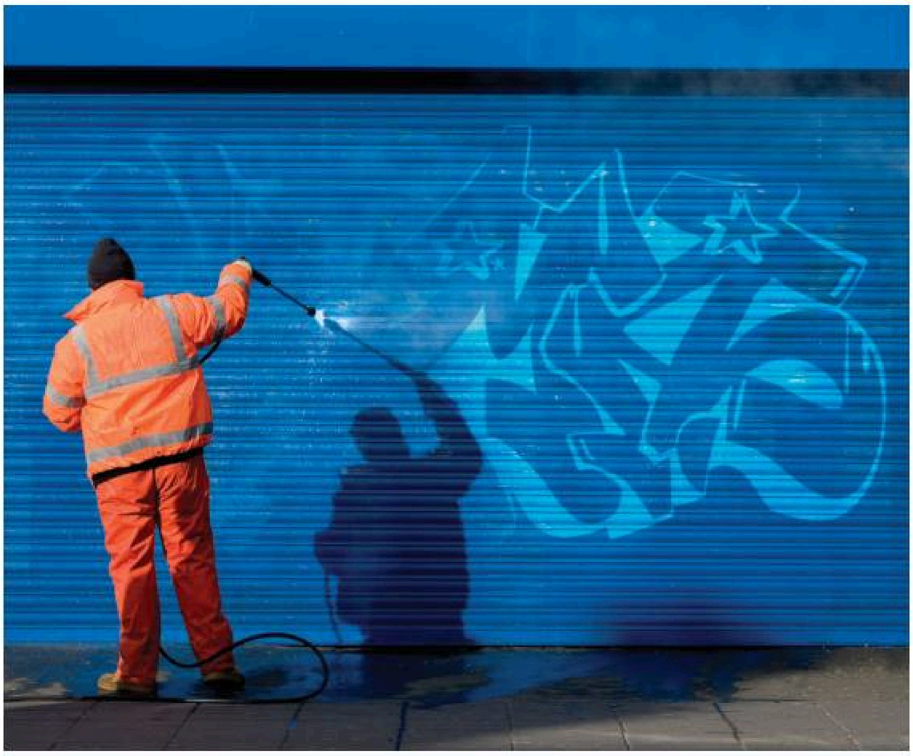
### The Importance of Reporting

Vandalism is a crime. If those who carry it out aren't taken to task and punished for the severity of their crime, irrespective of how trivial it may seem to them, then they will continue to do it. The mindset of the people who commit vandalism is often such that it can lead to further more serious crimes if not dealt with – whether it is a solo act or gangs of people that are doing it, the concept of there being no retribution breeds confidence in what they are doing. Also, crime statistics play a vital role in determining criminal activity in areas where an enhanced police presence may be required to nip problems in the bud.

### Reporting

Perhaps one of the main reasons that so many people commit acts of vandalism is that it often remains unreported, therefore those who carry it out don't worry about the criminality of it or any repercussions. There are a number of predominant reasons for vandalism not being reported which can include:

- Trivial / No loss
- Fear of lack of police engagement
- People dealing with it themselves
- Lack of evidence
- Fear of reprisals
- Increased insurance premiums



It isn't of course only businesses that suffer. If vandals are freely getting away with damaging businesses then they will often do the same to council property such as bus shelters, telephone boxes, road signs etc. all of this is far from a victimless crime and the public will end up paying for it in their taxes. Vandals will also happily carry out their crimes against domestic properties, all of which contribute to a negative social space where crime is likely to escalate if unchallenged which is damaging to businesses and the public, impacting on reduced property value and lost business.

**Deterrents**

The first step is to assess your current security system. With each passing year, there are technological advances that are changing the game for business owners. If you haven't updated or assessed your security measures for a long time then it is likely that it isn't doing all it can to protect your business. If you don't have basic security in place with appropriate signage then this could well be the reason you are being targeted, or susceptible to, vandalism. There is of course an up front investment for decent security systems, but if you compare this to the aforementioned costs of the crime itself, it makes for a worthwhile investment.


Does your business premises have old wooden doors that could easily be kicked in and broken, or single pane windows? If there is a weak spot on your property, that's the spot that vandals will target. Replacing materials that could easily be damaged will save you money by keeping vandals at bay. To further protect your new installations, consider additional measures like security gates or window bars. Every extra step you take will aid in discouraging vandals more and more, and if you make it hard for them to do their work, they'll decide your property isn't worth the trouble and move on.

### CCTV

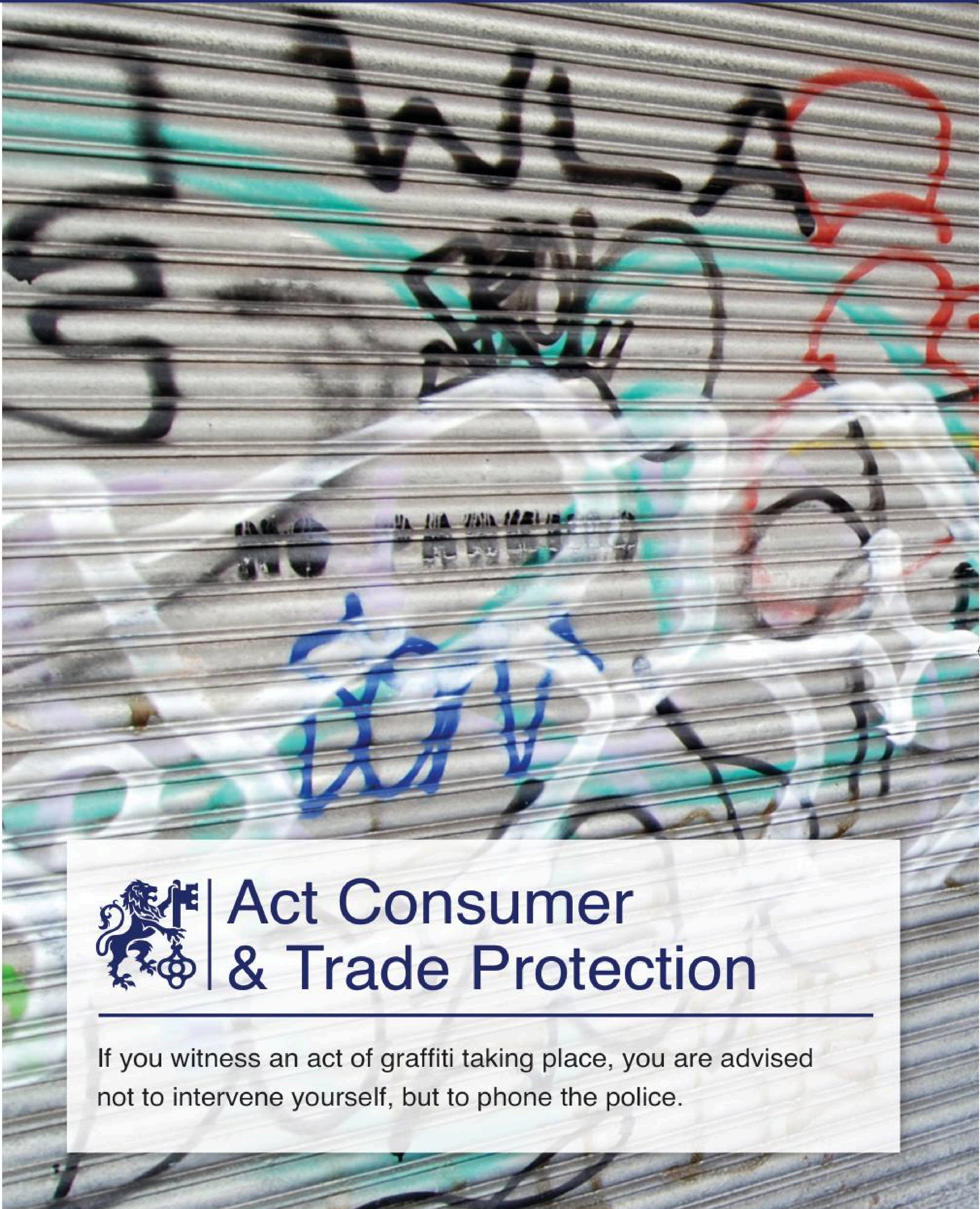
A good CCTV system will protect both the inside and outside of your business. This will deter most vandals, who are usually just looking to cause trouble out of boredom, or to show off to their peers. However, in case vandalism does occur, your cameras can help you to catch the persons responsible and reduce the chances of it happening again. In order to get the best results, you should apply signage all around the property indicating that CCTV is in use and that you will prosecute vandals.

### Lighting

Most vandalism occurs at night when business premises are unattended. Vandals look for easy targets, and one of the easiest targets of all is a dark area, since it's unlikely that people passing by will see what's going on. Place bright floodlights in any dark spots like alleys or back doors. By making it hard for vandals to sneak under the cover of darkness, you'll be well on your way to keeping your property damage-free.

### Additional Methods

It is always advisable to work in conjunction with other business owners in the area, the police and the council. Joined up thinking, sharing information and advice, and regular meetings can help to suppress the activities of vandals and play an important role in making your businesses attractive, safe and more profitable.



# Act Consumer & Trade Protection

If you witness an act of graffiti taking place, you are advised not to intervene yourself, but to phone the police.

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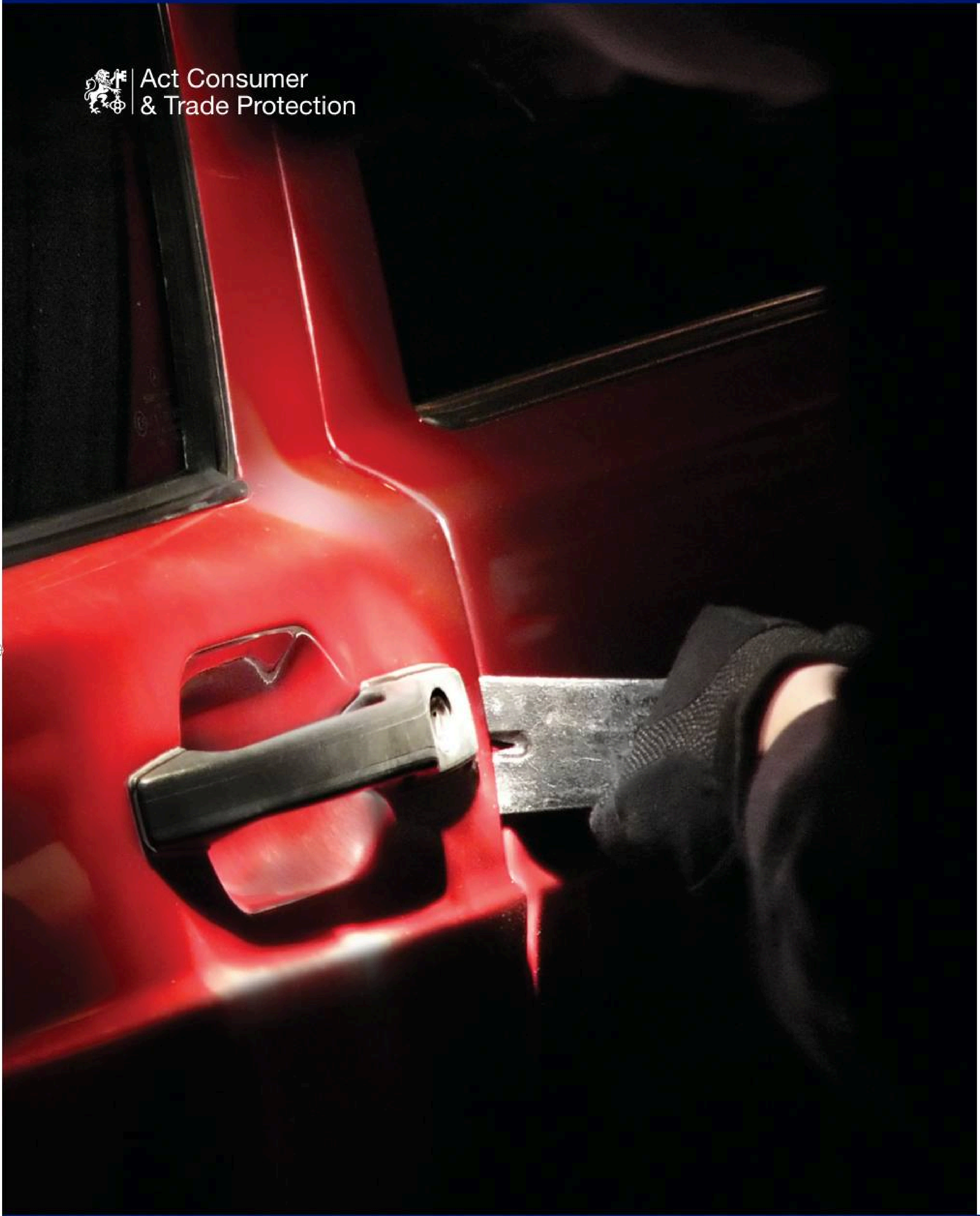
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# Your Tools ARE Your Trade!

**A tradesperson's tools of the job are their livelihood. They are also a valuable asset on their own though, which means, like anything of value, they are often a target for thieves.**

There are gangs that specifically focus on the theft of valuable tools for a number of reasons, namely, that they are relatively easy to sell on, and unfortunately due to the carelessness of many traders, they can be easy to steal. Once sold on, for a fraction of their original value, the thief will simply move on to the next easy target and the cycle continues. Act Consumer & Trade Protection have spoken to traders who have had their tools stolen several times in a year, and it is amazing just how many traders are still not doing all they can to prevent this.

The impact is massive. Without the tools to carry out a job it will result in loss of work, higher insurance costs and disappointed clients. None of these do any favours for the UK's hard working traders, so Act Consumer & Trade Protection are pleased to provide some information on what every trader should be doing.

**Prevention is better than Cure!**

There are a number of common ways that thieves will target traders to steal their equipment. Although there are steps you can take to increase the chance of retrieving your tools if they are stolen which we will detail later, the important thing is to do all you can to prevent the theft in the first place.

### Storage

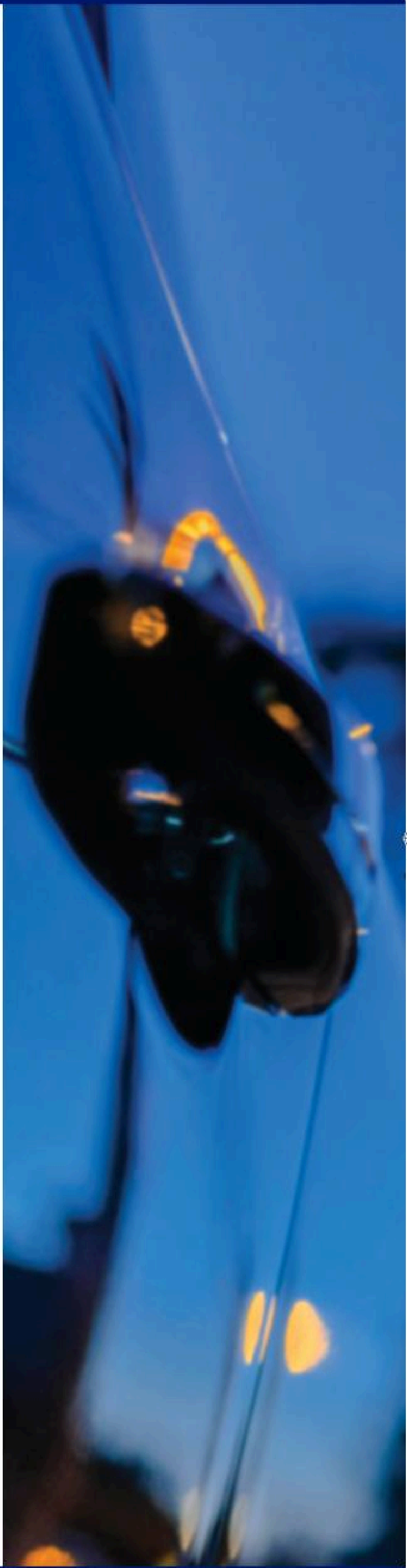
A huge number of tool thefts occur when they are left in a work vehicle overnight. Although it can be laborious after a long day's work to unload them and bring them in, you need to think of the consequences of not doing so. If your work vehicle has livery on the outside that shows what you do then this will make it a target for thieves. They will capitalise on a moment of weakness so the general rule of thumb is never to leave your tools outside overnight.

If the space on your property where you store your tools overnight is an outbuilding or garage then they may still be at risk! Padlocks can easily and quietly be snapped with bolt cutters so ensure the security on these structures is as robust as possible, It is also worth fitting an alarm to any outbuildings and garages and if you have CCTV then ensure it covers them too. It can add an extra layer of security if you keep the tools in a secure, lockable container too and if the container is secured to the floor then even better.

Of course the storage of your tools whilst working is a different story. Being away from home means that it will of course be necessary to have them in your vehicle and your activities may well have caught the attention of thieves, so be vigilant. It is easy to forget to lock your van if you are going to and fro to collect things, but it only takes the amount of time to walk in and out of a property for a thief to strike. It is therefore imperative that every time you leave your van unattended, even if only for seconds, you ensure it is fully locked. This will constitute the first line of defence from either organised or opportunistic thieves, and it won't cost you a penny!

As with outbuildings at home, additional security can be provided by fitting a strong van box to your vehicle. If thieves do get inside your van then you need to make it harder for them to get what they are after. These can be secured to the interior of the vehicle and It's worth choosing a box that features benefits such as anti-jemmy design, reinforcements, deadlocks and thick steel. Van boxes to avoid are those that are secured with a padlock, as most padlocks can be twisted open with a jemmy very quickly.

Slamlocks are also a great idea and relatively inexpensive given the value of the equipment they will help to protect. They are designed to lock the vehicle door securely every time it is closed, hence the name and most vans can be fitted with them. They are also often used by couriers who have valuables inside their vehicle that has to be left regularly when making deliveries.



for more information go to... www.actprotection.co.uk

# Mitre Saw for sale

**£150.00**

**London**


Posted: 2 days ago

Description: Performance mitre saw in perfect working order very little use , quick sale, buyer to collect.

Advert ID: 8422664995

## ID Your Equipment

Despite your best efforts there is nothing that can be done to guarantee the safety of your tools and sometimes the most tenacious thieves can get to your equipment. What you need to pay attention to is increasing the chance of retrieving them if this happens.

Don't assume that they are gone for good, as the police recover thousands of stolen goods every year. What you need to do is make for a positive ID that they are yours - using a UV pen or SmartWater is the most reliable and simplest way of doing this – it leaves an invisible mark that can only be detected using UV light. Use appropriate signage on your vehicle as this can act as a deterrent.

## Keep Your Eyes Peeled

There is also a good chance that you could retrieve the tools yourself. Look in local second hand shops, Cash Converters, car boot sales and the like. Similarly, have a look online – Gumtree, Facebook, eBay and the like are often used by criminals to get rid of stolen goods and many traders also personalise their equipment to make it recognisable. If you think you recognise your equipment online then raise a query with the site, and if you think you have identified your equipment in a shop or at a car boot sale then notify the police – don't take the law into your own hands!

## Protect Your Tools

Essentially there are four main tips to protect your tools.

- Lock them up
- Keep them out of sight
- ID your equipment and tools
- Keep them properly insured

Your tools are a big part of your ability to earn an income as a tradesman, so it is worth making the effort to keep them safe.

Act Consumer
& Trade Protection

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www.actprotection.co.uk



Thank you for your support, together we can make difference.