

Recent Success Stories

1. SUCCESS STORY - A fantastic result for the Retainagroup system !

When three vehicle examiners from West Yorkshire police were executing a warrant at a breakers yard they had a phenomenal success in identifying no less than 35 stolen vehicles through our marking and registration system.

One of the police officers involved in the investigation said he wished "every car manufacturer had their vehicles security etched, as it would make life so much easier for police". The ISR operator who handled the enquiries said the officer was literally 'over the moon' with the number of vehicles identified as a result of our service.

Most of the vehicles were Toyotas and others included Lexus, Skoda and Mazda vehicles.

2. SUCCESS STORY - Toyota Land Cruiser theft identified

An officer from Greater Manchester Police was investigating a referral from the DVLA regarding a possible stolen V5. He was examining a suspect Toyota Land Cruiser and telephoned the ISR with the unique etch code. This brought up the record for a vehicle that had been reported stolen.

The ISR operator gave the officer the correct registration number, confirmed the correct VIN, and provided him with all the stolen report details.

The officer said that as always our ability to respond immediately to his enquiry was very much appreciated.

3. SUCCESS STORY - Stolen Skoda identified

A Skoda was taken into a garage for repair and because the mechanic was worried about its identity he called Greater Manchester Police. The vehicle was taken to the local police compound and was looked at by an examiner who had used our service on previous occasions. He phoned the ISR with the etch code which brought up the record for a Skoda stolen some two months before. The vehicle's plates and VIN had been changed and the examiner said that our ability to immediately provide the correct details had once again been a great time saver.

4. SUCCESS STORY - Stolen Mazda MX5 identified at Breakers Yard

A police officer from the Greater Manchester force, who uses our service on a regular basis to identify vehicles, called with the security etch code from a Mazda window whilst executing a Police Warrant at a yard that breaks vehicles into parts and sells them on Ebay.

The code brought up the record for a Mazda showing as stolen on the Police National Computer (PNC). The ISR operator supplied the vehicle details to the officer, including the PNC reference and force code for the area from which it had been reported stolen. He was particularly pleased because it was a Greater Manchester 'stolen event' and our system would enable him to report that the vehicle had been recovered.

5. SUCCESS STORY - Lexus GS 300

A Detective Constable from the Flying Squad called regarding a Lexus that had been involved in an armed robbery on the 15th January. It was badly damaged having been driven into a cash machine.

The vehicle was on false plates and the policeman needed to check its true identity. The ISR operator checked the code etched into the windows and this brought up the record for a stolen Lexus that had been listed on the Police National Computer on the 10th January.

The policeman was provided with the correct details for the vehicle and he said that as a result of our service they would be able to find out where the vehicle came from and it would greatly assist with their enquiries.

6. SUCCESS STORY - SAAB 9.3 on false plates

Sussex Police had a call from AVCIS to say the DVLA had received part of a stolen log book for a Saab that had been purchased at auction by a Saab dealership.

The DVLA gave the police officer the dealership contact information. On checking the vehicle the officer discovered it was on false registration plates and telephoned the ISR with the etch code. This brought up the correct registration plate number and the fact that the vehicle was recorded on the PNC stolen file.

The information was given to the officer who said the ISR's immediate confirmation of the Saab's true identity had saved him a lot of time and effort.

7. SUCCESS STORY - Toyota Prius T Spirit

A police officer from Staines Police Station, called our phone number which he obtained from the etching on the windows of a Toyota Prius T Spirit. He had not heard of us previously but when the ISR operator explained the system and service to him he registered his details. Registration with the ISR allows him to receive information over the phone, to assist with solving vehicle crime at any time of the day or night.

The etch code matched the Toyota's VIN on the ISR but not the registration plate number. The officer was delighted with the service as it enabled him to quickly identify that the vehicle was on false plates, thus resolving an outstanding crime. As a result, the vehicle now appears on the Police National Computer as having been recovered.

8. SUCCESS STORY - Toyota Hi Lux

A police officer was checking a container due to be shipped out to Pakistan. He telephoned the ISR for a vehicle check and provided the etch code. This identified a PNC stolen Toyota Hi Lux on false plates.

The officer was delighted and said the car would have fetched a good price in Pakistan. He explained to the ISR operator that thieves used the shell of a stolen vehicle and the chassis of one that had been destroyed but had left the etched windows in place. He said this was a "nice little hit and a great result" and added that there would have been no way of identifying the vehicle without our security etch code.

The officer confirmed that as a result of our help this totally unsafe vehicle would be destroyed.

9. SUCCESS STORY - Vehicle Parts Identified

A call was received on the 18th November from a member of the AVCIS team who was at a location in Lancashire carrying out a search into various parts of vehicles.

A search using the etch codes provided identified that a gear box and a door were from a SsangYong Rodius stolen in August 2007 and that another door was from a Renault Megane Cabriolet stolen in October 2007. The ISR operator was also able to confirm that a third door belonged to a Fiat Ulysse, and that there was no police interest in the vehicle.

10. SUCCESS STORY - Stolen van identified in Ireland

The owner of a van bought in England took it to be re-registered in Ireland. When the V55 was checked it was found to be one of a hundred forms stolen from the DVLA.

PSV Inspector Nolan was called in to investigate and found that some of the characters on the van's original VIN plate had been ground down and a false plate fixed over it.

After making several phone calls to England for more information, the Inspector came across our phone number on the windows and called us. He gave the etch code by which the van was identified as being stolen and on false plates.

The ISR operator provided the Inspector with the original registration plate number and VIN for the van, together with contact details for the police force that had dealt with the original theft.

11. SUCCESS STORY – Fast Identification of stolen bicycle!

A resident of Southsea in Hampshire found a bicycle that had been dumped in his garden. The bike was registered to Portsmouth Police and had been stolen only the day before. The ISR operator contacted the police who were delighted and have arranged to collect the bicycle.

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