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Key theft

Don't be a victim of key theft

Motor traders have been warned to be vigilant following a series of vehicle thefts this year by a professional gang who steal keys from car showrooms.

To steal the vehicles, the showrooms were initially visited by a couple who took keys from employee drawers and desks. The keys were then passed on to other members of the gang. By operating in this way, the gang were able to take the vehicles quickly with three of the five identified cases carried out on the same day.

The couple are believed to be in their late 20s or early 30s and, on some of their visits, are accompanied by a boy of around five years old. As the gang has not been apprehended, it is believed that they may still be operating and may be targeting other parts of the country.

Stop the thieves

As well as looking out for these criminals, it is important to take a proactive approach to reducing the risk of vehicle theft. Although it can be tempting to leave keys in a desk drawer, especially on a busy day, it is essential to keep them locked away whenever possible. This rule should apply both to stock vehicles but also employees' own company cars.

As well as reducing the risk of theft, leaving keys lying around contravenes the key clause included in the insurance policy. This means that, if a vehicle is stolen and the keys had not been kept securely, as well as the inconvenience of the theft, the policyholder also risks having a claim declined or co-insurance being applied, which could cost around 35% of the claim value.