

## Protect your catalytic convertor

Precious metals such as rhodium, platinum and palladium are used in catalytic converters. The price of these metals has risen sharply in recent years and as a result has led to an increase in the theft of catalytic converters.

Hybrid vehicles, vans, SUVs and 4x4s are the most commonly targeted vehicles.



### Tips to reduce risk of having your catalytic converter stolen:

**Locks:** Ask your manufacturer or dealership for advice on adding locks/guards for protection. Products will need to be approved by the vehicle manufacturer, also inform your insurance company of any vehicle modifications

**Marking:** Security marking of catalytic converters is possible with a heat resistant marking system which is best applied by a garage when being serviced.

**Parking:** Park in a secure, well-lit area. Speak to your dealership to find out the position of your catalytic converter and advice on defensive parking.

## Second-hand shopping

More people are now buying 'pre-loved' items online, either through popular re-selling sites or social media marketplaces. Scammers can use these sites to advertise high value goods such as vehicles, caravans or mobile phones, asking for advance or part-payment as a deposit before you collect the item. The scammer then stops all contact, gives a false address for collection and then

### How you can protect yourself:

- If someone's profile looks suspicious, trust your instincts and walk away.
- Do the exchange in a safe public place, such as a local police station.
- Never transfer money directly into a seller's account without viewing the item in person first.
- Avoid giving out your home address to someone you don't know.
- For more information and advice or to report fraud visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

blocks the buyer from making contact with them on the social media platform.

When you are either buying or selling online you never truly know who you are dealing with as criminals can hide behind a social media profile.

## The Children's Society: #LookCloser campaign

Neighbourhood Watch are supporting The Children's Society campaign #LookCloser to spot and report signs of child exploitation. The campaign shows what signs to look for, such as children travelling alone frequently and during school hours or late at night, looking lost, anxious or frightened. They could be carrying lots of cash and in possession of more than one phone.

Their website covers what other signs to look for, details on how to report and resources that can be shared, including learning and awareness events. [#LookCloser To Spot Exploitation | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)



**The Children's Society**

### Is it a scam call?

Ask yourself:

- Are you expecting this call?
- Are they asking for personal or financial details?
- Are they making you feel rushed, panicked or worried?

Remember, if in doubt...



**HANG UP THE PHONE**

I will not make any decision /give any information without speaking to my partner/son /daughter/friend.

I'm sorry, but the phone line isn't clear, I can't hear you.

I'm not available to talk right now, goodbye.

You should have all my details already, please send me a letter by post (do not give them your address).

### Rural Times

The latest edition of the Rural Times is now available to read: [rural-times---march-2023](#)



### Scam Awareness Learning

Become scam aware by completing the Friends Against Scams awareness sessions online.

[Online Learning course](#)



YOUR

UPDATE

Visit [www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk)



HAMPSHIRE & ISLE OF WIGHT  
**CONSTABULARY**