

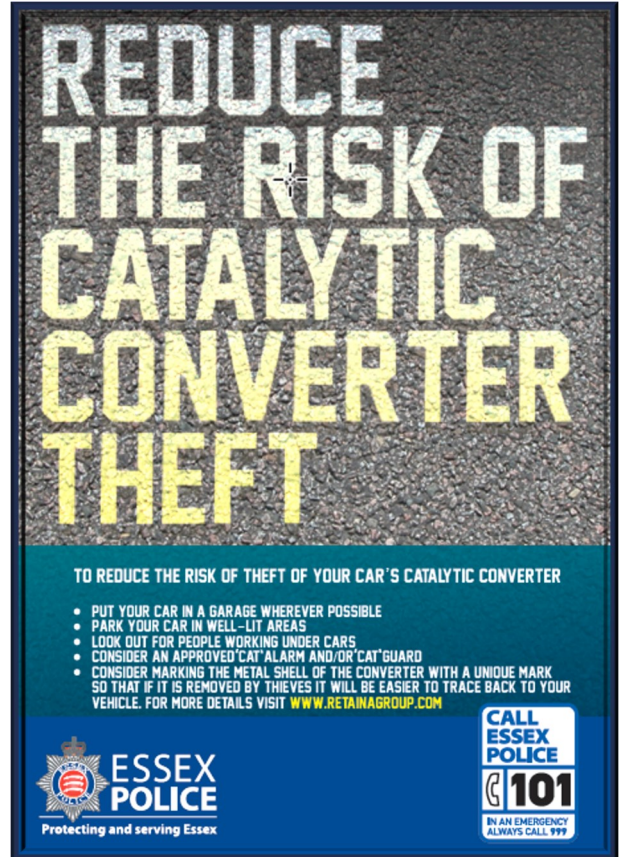
23rd April 2021

### Catalytic Converter Thefts

Due to the increase in the value of scrap metal, organised criminals are turning their attention to making money through metal theft. In particular they are targeting the theft of Catalytic Converters due to the three precious metals found within, two of which are worth more than gold. National in 2020 there was a 75% increase

It takes less than 2 minutes to steal a Catalytic Converter and only requires a car jack and an angle-grinder or similar tool for cutting the exhaust pipe quickly in two places. The criminals then drive off looking for their next target.

The criminals will then sell the stolen Catalytic Converters to garages, scrap metal dealers or even sell them abroad.



### Vehicles Targeted

The thieves will be on the look out for suitable vehicles that have high ground clearance, to aid their access to the Catalytic Converter. The top five vehicles targeted are:

- Honda Jazz
- Toyota Prius
- Toyota Auris
- Lexus RX
- Mercedes Sprinter



If you have any information about possible organised crime, victims of such crime or vulnerable people subject of exploitation, please inform Essex Police or CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111

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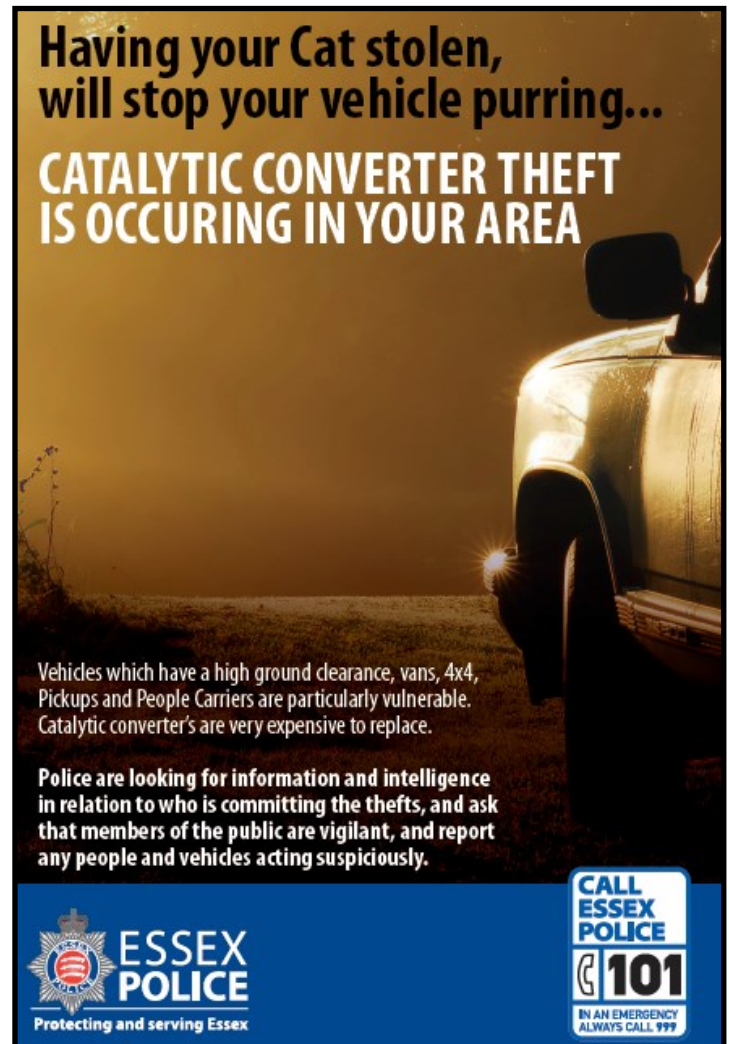
## Where & when do Catalytic Converter thefts occur?

Traditionally these thefts were occurring at night but as thieves are becoming more proficient at this type of crime, many are now happening in broad daylight.

Most thefts are taking place in car parks, such as railway stations, hospitals and supermarkets. They are also stolen from vehicles parked on roads and even peoples driveways.

## How can I reduce my chances of being a victim?

- Park your car in a locked garage or in a well-lit and well-populated area.
- Park with exhaust close to fences, walls or a kerb to make theft more difficult.
- Avoid parking your vehicle half on the pavement and half on the road, as this may make it easier for thieves to access the catalytic converter.
- If parking in a public car park, park alongside other cars and facing you bonnet towards the wall if possible.
- If you park on a drive way, installation of low-cost security lighting and CCTV could deter any potential thief. If the design of your drive way allows consider installation of a motion activated alert.
- If there is a fleet of vehicles, park the low clearance vehicles to block the high clearance vehicles. This will obstruct access underneath.
- If your catalytic converter is bolted on, you can ask for your local garage to weld the bolts to make it more difficult to remove.
- Have a prevention device fitted, like a tilt sensor alarm, or a CAT cage, lock or strap.
- You can also etch your post code or registration number on the converter.




**Having your Cat stolen, will stop your vehicle purring...**


**CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT IS OCCURING IN YOUR AREA**

Vehicles which have a high ground clearance, vans, 4x4, Pickups and People Carriers are particularly vulnerable. Catalytic converter's are very expensive to replace.

Police are looking for information and intelligence in relation to who is committing the thefts, and ask that members of the public are vigilant, and report any people and vehicles acting suspiciously.



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IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999



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## What do I do if I see someone acting suspiciously or have information about Catalytic Converter thefts or other forms of organised crime?



- If you believe that you are witnessing a crime taking place, then please call the Police on “999” and report what you have seen. This will include your location, a description of the thieves and if possible details of their vehicle and those of the vehicle being attacked (registration number, colour, make and model).
- Where possible and only if safe to do so, take a photo of the suspects or even video it on your mobile phone.
- If the crime is not taking place there and then or you are not sure if a crime was being committed or not, then please contact the Police via “101” or online at Essex.Police.UK
- If you have any information about Catalytic Converter thefts or any other type of organised crime, then again please contact Essex Police on “999” if urgent or there is an immediate risk to anyone. If not the use “101” or the Essex Police website.
- If you want to remain anonymous, then there is always reporting the information via CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111



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