



**STAFFORDSHIRE  
POLICE**

## **Thefts From Vans Increases**

**Staffordshire Police is warning van drivers that there has been a high increase in the number of thefts from work vans across the county, including South Staffordshire. If you own or know a neighbour, friend or workmate who owns a van please make them aware.**

**Realising most drivers keep their equipment in their vans overnight makes it an enticing opportunity for thieves to steal valuable tools. Park rear doors on vans up against garage or other doors to prevent access where possible.**

**Emptying your van every night improves the chance of you keeping your equipment.**

**Keep your tools in boxes that can be easily moved and pop them in a garage, outbuilding or even your home if you have room. Upgrade your security by having additional security door locks fitted and a safe box secured within the vehicle.**

**Fit a PIR alarm that calls you on your mobile phone when activated - intended for sheds but work just as well in a van.**

**Register serial numbers of your property on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) this is a completely free service. Please visit the website for more information.**

**Make your tools harder for a thief to sell on. Visibly mark them with your postcode using an engraving or chemical etching kit. Blob some paint such as bright pink on the tools as this will make them almost impossible to sell on. You could also consider using a DNA product such as CRE Mark, Selecta DNA or Smart Water.**

**If you are offered tools for sale in suspicious circumstances, think about the person who has lost his potential earnings. Report the incident to the police. Cheap tools are probably someone else's livelihood.**