



MARITIME CRIME

OUTBOARD ENGINE & BOAT EQUIPMENT THEFT DETERRENT

CIOS BCU identified the theft of outboard engines from unattended boats at waterside locations as a crime trend that required attention. Further consultation established that this was a problem that was emerging in other areas of the force also. TP Dept was asked to assist with identifying a suitable crime reduction product to assist with the proactive work to be undertaken by BCU.

Consideration was given to a number of ideas. Research nationally recognised similar problems developing elsewhere and in particular the initiative in response to the problem by Norfolk Police. The Norfolk initiative was the deployment of replacement temporary engine covers. The most appropriate and beneficial product would be one that provided a visible deterrent to would be thieves but also provide law enforcement with the opportunity to increase the likelihood of identifying the thieves/handlers should offences continue.

Issues considered included that if an engine cover only was fitted and a thief still steals the engine after only the temporary cover is fitted the potential remains for a similar and different engine cowling to be stolen to 'match' the engine (additional crime). There is also potential for the thief to visit the household or vehicle of the engine owner to steal the original engine cowling (additional crime). The ability to recover the engine or its cover would be negligible. With a more substantial approach, using marking products, the ability to recover the engine, its cover and any other items e.g. fishfinder, radio etc through traceability is enhanced.

TP Dept considered the Norfolk initiative that was the deployment of replacement temporary engine covers and developed it a stage further. The outcome was the 'outboard engine & boat equipment theft deterrent'.

There are several elements to the '**outboard engine & boat equipment theft deterrent kit**' that consists of:

1. The engine cover
2. The 'marking' product pack i.e. SelectaDOT
3. Instructions for use
4. Front sheet

During the trial period the above was purchased and collated for distribution by Force Crime Reduction, TP Dept at HQ. This option is no longer available leaving future requirements to be managed by the local Crime Prevention Officer for the area concerned.

Costs - there is currently a minimum order requirement of 100 on which the current pricing is based. The complete 'kit' is approximately £20 per customer although the trial products were provided at a cost of £15 as a subsidy was provided via TP Dept and is no longer available. I am advised a price increase for the engine covers only can be expected.

Details for the acquisition of the above four items are listed below:

1. Engine Covers

Artwork has already been commissioned and signed off by the force and includes the force crest and SelectaDOT logo. The engine covers, which should be deployed with the marking product and instructions etc are available from Mr N Healing who can be contacted on 07860 236905.

To confirm orders please email to n.healing@tiscali.co.uk

2. SelectaDOT - the 'marking' product

The marking product is supplied by Selectamark Ltd (www.selectamark.co.uk) and is a solution that glows under UV light and has microdots suspended within it. The solution is provided in a small container with its own applicator and is sufficient quantity to mark the engine, its cover and approximately up to 15 other boat items belonging to the same owner. The contact is Mr C Taylor who can be contacted on 01689 860757 or via email chris.taylor@selectamark.co.uk

3. Instruction for use

This is an A4 page of additional explanatory text to be included with the engine covers and marking solution that has already been prepared for local use. The word document is attached and can be printed locally.

4. Front sheet

This is a coloured A5 page designed for presentation at the front of the pack. Artwork has been finalised and a pdf is attached (printing is available via force reprographics).

Images are available of the above listed items and the engine cover deployed on location. Please view the attached.

Please remember that if you wish to undertake this initiative your point of contact is the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) for your area. Contact details for all CPO's is available on the force intranet.

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