

**Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit** 





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Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

## Welcome to the tenth quarterly report from the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit (PANIU).

The purpose of the report is to highlight the current issues relating to plant theft, the emerging criminal trends, and the work of Police Partnerships throughout the UK in combatting machinery and equipment theft. Together with the farming and construction industries plant theft can be beaten!!

This report documents the latest crime data available relating to thefts of plant and agricultural machinery throughout the UK and as such uses data obtained during the period 1st January 2011 to March 31st December 2010 and the national trends reported to the Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit (PANIU) during the same period.

PANIU is a specialist police unit that is totally funded by the major Construction and Agricultural Insurance industries and from funding directly from sales of the Construction and Agricultural Equipment Security and Registration Scheme (CESAR).

The primary aim of the unit is to reduce plant and agricultural theft across the United Kingdom. It does this in two ways, firstly by assisting the Roads Policing Officer and Patrol officer on the street enabling them to identify stolen equipment and tackle the organised criminal networks responsible for targeting thefts of such plant equipment.

Secondly, by providing the industry with direct access to a team of specialist Police officers who are committed to reducing plant theft and who understand the complexities of the respective industries.

PANIU assist Police throughout the Country by providing advice and intelligence relating to theft of plant machinery. They maintain the most accurate theft database known and receive daily data not only from the PNC but also from the majority of the major insurers in the current market.

All data is carefully checked for accuracy and cleansed. The PANIU database is the only one in the world that is considered so accurate that it is circulated by both SOCA and Interpol and is approved by the Home Office, ACPO and the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA).

PANIU data is held for detection and prevention of crime purposes only and does not operate on a commercial reward basis.

The current PANIU stolen equipment database commenced in October 2008 and now comprises over 16,500 items of equipment. This data is circulated to 187 countries worldwide using the Interpol ASF network.

In a joint partnership with the Insurance companies and the official Home Office backed Construction and Agricultural Equipment Security and Registration Scheme, (www.cesarscheme.org) all PANIU data can be accessed out of normal office hours on 08450 700440.

This allows a police officer to check any suspicious equipment 24 hours a day through the official data partner.



## 2011

## **Thatcham Security Initiative Stops Plant Theft!**

In November 2009 the Thatcham 5 star security standards were launched at the prestigious Combined Industries Theft Solutions (CITS) Conference at JCB Worldwide Headquarters.

These standards were designed by Thatcham Motor Insurance Research Centre working in partnership with PANIU and the Machinery Insurance Industry to encourage manufacturers of plant to start fitting machinery with security systems. The 5 star scheme rewards manufacturers with individual star ratings for fitting CESAR, unique keys, immobilisers, perimeter security and vehicle tracking systems as standard fitment in an effort to raise security standards similar to those found on passenger cars. Already Kubota, JCB, Finning Caterpillar and John Deere have designed machines which are now on sale which have reached these standards.

Since November 2009 JCB alone has manufactured over 1700 3 star rated machines which are now in use across the UK.

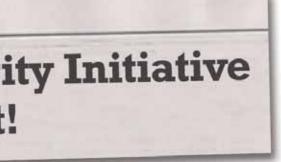
PANIU has recently conducted an extensive search of its stolen plant databases and can confirm that since launch, not one case of a JCB 3 star rated machine has been reported to PANIU as stolen!!

#### Theft can be beaten!

Demand your new machines are fitted with Thatcham 5 star products! (Further details can be seen at www.thatcham.org)







## 10th Quarterly Report (January - March 2011)

## **Market Updates Spring 2011**



Plant prices for both new and second hand machines in the United Kingdom still appear to be increasing.

Prices of quality steel, lead and rubber have shown strength in the Global markets which has been reflected by manufacturers having to pass on those costs to the industry. As the list prices for new machines has had to rise so has the demand and therefore the prices of second hand machines.

Demand for new machines is at pre recession levels with many manufacturers again running at full capacity and order books remaining full and in many cases demand is outstripping supply.

In the construction sector auction houses are reporting a shortage of good stock with demand high from the Far East.

Second hand machines selling for £20,000 last year are returning prices as high as £30-35,000 this year. India Thailand and Malaysia are the primary export markets for genuine machines.

These increased valuations are encouraging many of the large plant hire companies to dispose of second hand stock in turn encouraging them to make large orders with manufacturers for new machines promoting healthy growth for the industry.

With reference to agricultural machines, the favourable exchange rate for the Euro against the Pound means there is continuing demand from Europe for quality late tractors with demand from France, Norway and Sweden high.

This demand means high numbers of machines leaving through the Channel ports into Europe and a large number of machines heading west via Northern Ireland into Eire.

With shipping transportation costs to the Far East for Ro-ro (driven on to the boat complete) running at approximately £8000 there is a growing trend for machines to be physically dismantled or cut up

and loaded into 40' shipping containers which cost approximately £1800.

With the increased global demand for machinery from the UK means that the organized criminal is currently doing very well and making fat profits hiding stolen property amongst the genuine exports!



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## **Rural Crime Update Spring 2011**

The Spring has seen the increased number of thefts from agricultural premises again.

Farms and Estates are being attacked frequently overnight to steal agricultural machines, quad bikes and tractors from vulnerable premises..

Due to their very nature farms have been described as factories with open doors, but this same openness allows the criminal gangs to exploit those weaknesses and apparently operate at ease. Plant equipment, vehicle batteries, diesel, valuable metals are being targeted for theft and reports of a rise in fly tipping, illegal off roading, poaching and hare coursing are being made to Police.

Chief Constable Richard Crompton of Lincolnshire Police who is the current ACPO lead on Rural Crime is actively engaged trying to promote Police partnerships with the industry to reduce these offences.

Police forces across the country are no longer working independently but are now starting to combine intelligence and work together to target these criminals.

Later this year a National Rural Crime Conference is to be held bringing together all of the industries to hear best practices when dealing with these types of offences.

Further details will be released as soon as final details have been confirmed.







## **Construction Theft Updates**

#### **Fraudulent Hires**

Construction theft is again continuing to rise. PANIU are currently seeing an increase in the numbers of machines obtained by fraudulent hire.

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Trends are currently to hire expensive machines with cloned company details. This unfortunately leads to the problem that the piece of plant equipment is invariably gone and left the country long before the fraud comes to light.

PANIU advise both plant hirers and utility companies to use the purchase invoice schemes with each other and equipment should only be handed over to hirers on production of the correct purchase invoice number from the Head Office of the utility company or construction company.

#### Liquidation thefts

Another recent 'scam' which has become particularly prevalent over the last few months are machines which mysteriously disappear as a result of construction companies going into receivership or liquidation.

The property and contents of companies which have run into financial difficulties are parked in the business premises awaiting the Receiver to record and take over the assets of the troubled company. Unfortunately the machines and contents seem to then be stolen prior to official takeover leaving insurance companies often hundreds of thousands of pounds out of pocket.

Fortunately the majority of our funding insurers have now wised up to this and all allegations are reported to PANIU for further criminal investigations to take place. As a result dishonest claimants are finding themselves in slightly deeper water and claims are rejected.

#### **E-Scams**

Another common scam is an electronic fraud scam whereby machines are offered for sale on online internet markets such as Ebay, Iron Mountain and Plant Trader.

Here e-scammers are copying and cloning genuine adverts offering property for sale from genuine traders. The adverts are then cloned and copied onto another internet sale offering the same machine for sale but changing the contact details.

Potential purchasers are lured into these purchases. The primary intention of these criminal gangs is to get the purchaser to send monies via electronic means ie via money transfer services or escrow

accounts with a promise of delivery once payment is made. Obviously the machine does not exist and the criminals make good once monies are deposited.

PANIU advice is that no monies should be sent without the machine being physically seen and examined. Further advice can be obtained at the industry Vehicle Safer Trading website at VSTAG.co.uk

#### **Protecting yourself**

As a result of these scams and crime trends it is very important that any plant business who is in negotiations with any new contact or associate business take extra care.

Any purchases or hires need to be very carefully checked out and verified.

PANIU advise if purchasing or hiring machines to check out what your about to buy/hire with the original manufacturers!..

We have seen an increase in machines masquerading as something they are not! A number of large excavators have been imported from the Dubai UAE area after the collapse of their construction industry. Machines are currently being badged as CE Approved and sold as as UK type approved machines when indeed they have not been passed to operate on a UK site. Unscrupulous sellers are just changing VIN plates for forged CE marked plates leading to the possibility of potentially dangerous machines being used on UK construction sites.

#### **Hired Machines**

In relation to hiring out machines PANIU recently came across the machine below. It was being hired out as a Komatsu PC350 35 tonne machine but upon examination by PANIU it was identified in reality as a PC290 29 tonne machine which was also reported as stolen! The machine was stolen from a company who had just gone into liquidation!

When questioned why the machine had been rebadged the new 'owner' stated that he could get between £200-400 more per week hiring it as a 35 tonner rather than a 29 tonner!!

#### You have been warned!!

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The winter seems now to be a long time away but the cold weather and the chaos brought on by the snow definitely influenced the theft rates. A great decline in numbers over the cold snap between October and December was a welcome relief but unfortunately theft rates are again picking up.

This quarter the tractor manufacturers John Deere, Massey Ferguson and New Holland are all showing a small increase in numbers stolen but tractor thefts are invariably seasonal and are expected to increase significantly again with the approach of Summer.

RANK	JAN-MAR 201 MANUFACTURER		%
1	JCB	166	
2	KUBOTA	55	
3	CATERPILLAR	52	
4	TAKEUCHI	43	
5	JOHN DEERE	41	
6	<b>BENFORD/TEREX</b>	38	
7	VOLVO	34	
8	MASSEY FERGUSO	N 31	
9	BOMAG	29	
10	NEW HOLLAND	23	
	OTHERS	888	52%
	TOTAL	1400	100%

**JAN-MAR 2011** 

TOT

100

87

85

70

61

60

56

50

50

726

%

53%

1400 100%

RANK POLICE FORCE

GMP

KENT

ESSEX

OTHERS

TOTAL

1

2

3

4

5

6 7

8

9

10

MET POLICE

THAMES VALLEY

WEST MIDLANDS

AVON & SOMERSET 55

WEST MERCIA

STRATHCLYDE

WEST YORKHIRE

Construction sites were hit with more regularity than farmyards this quarter. Caterpillar and Takeuchi products appear especially desirable to thieves with high demand. 27 Caterpillars were stolen in Oct-Dec and this figure almost doubled in the latest guarter to 52. In the same period 29 Takeuchis were stolen which had increased to 43 for this period.

For the period Jan – March 2011 a total of 1400 machines were recorded stolen Nationally. This figure is indeed higher than all previous guarters but now also reflects the data capture of guad bikes not previously recorded by PANIU.

## **Theft by Force Area**

This quarters Top Ten Force Areas theft figures have highlighted some interesting facts with reference to how plant thieves cross Force borders.

Traditionally the Metropolitan Police area has always had the highest crime given the size of the area and its population. When compared to the same period Jan-March 2010 this year during that period the MPS area had reduced numbers of theft, 132 in 2010 compared to 100 in 2011.

Of concern though, are the crime levels in Thames Valley, West Mercia, the West Midlands and Strathclyde. All of these Force areas have shown a marked increase in plant theft reports.

Thames Valley specifically has been showing a continual rise in theft numbers every quarter. The area is now second out of the entire country for plant theft. During the same period last year TVP was seventh. During that period it had only recorded 31 crimes. The following quarter it recorded 52 crimes then 62 crimes until rising to second place this guarter with 87 reported crimes.

West Mercia and the West Midlands and Strathclyde have also had spectacular rises. In 2010 none of the force areas were even registered in the top ten and all have jumped straight into the top ten with West Mercia into number 4 position with 70 crimes and West Midlands into number 6 position with 60 reported crimes and Strathclyde into 7th position with 56 crimes.

## **Theft by Type**

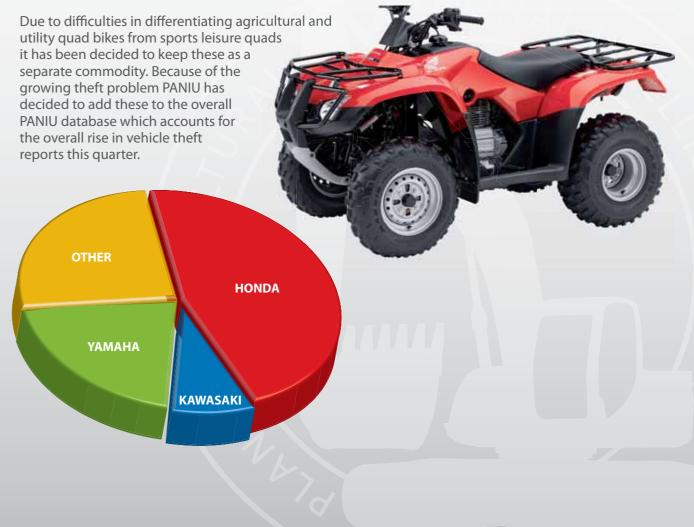
Again mini excavators remain the most popular machine of choice when reviewed by type with tractors following closely behind.

This figure does cause concern when compared seasonally as in the main more tractors are stolen during the summer guarters. A slight anomaly in these figures is the theft of excavators however this may be explained by a change in PANIU recording data.

As the seasonal fluctuations take place ride-on lawn mowers drop from the top ten items.

## **Ouad Bikes**

The most stolen item of property that PANIU has recorded this guarter relates to the theft of guad bikes. During this period 284 quad bikes were reported stolen to police, almost double that of most other types.



RANK	JAN-MAR 201 PLANT TYPE	1 TOT	%
1	MINI EXCAVATORS	149	
2	TRACTORS	124	
3	EXCAVATOR	111	
4	GENERATORS	93	
5	TELEHANDLERS	78	
6	DUMPERS	58	
7	ROLLER	49	
8	ATTACHMENTS	61	
9	COMPRESSOR	30	
10	BACKHOE EX	27	
	OTHERS	620	23%
	TOTAL	1400	100%

## **Police Paniu Update**

For the period October 2008 to March 2011 PANIU has directly assisted Police throughout the UK with the recovery of £6.5 million worth of stolen machinery. To date 256 items of property have been recovered with an average value of £25,000 per item. This figure is expected to grow year on year as the significance of plant theft is highlighted to patrol officers and the PANIU database becomes even more integrated with national Police systems.

A large number of criminal proceedings and investigations are continuing by the PANIU officers. These current operations involve enquiries with a number of foreign police forces including Ireland, Poland, Greece, the UAE, Cyprus and Turkey.

A third of the PANIU recoveries are machines which have now been recovered from overseas. As a result PANIU continues to increase the network of law enforcement officers around the world with which we now share intelligence and information in the fight against plant crime.

## **Operational Updates**

#### Help Requested!

Help is requested to find a roque vehicle involved in plant theft. Yet another liveried vehicle is driving around London and South East England involved in thefts of construction machinery from sites. This time, a marked Speedy Hire drop side Transit, which is

believed to be one that was stolen from a depot in Barking, London in April this year has been entering construction sites and 'collecting' Speedy Hire plant equipment. When challenged, these criminals have been stating that they are collecting equipment for service or end of hire contracts.

To date an industrial jetwasher, a 20kv generator and a large breaker have been stolen from a number of sites around the South East. The registration plates have been changed between offences and include MV09LKX and ML59GTX. Of note the index MV09LKX is the index of another genuine Speedy Hire transit.

Could special attention be given to any Speedy Hire drop side seen in the vicinity of construction sites where the driver is acting suspiciously and please thoroughly check the identity of the vehicle!

### Schwing Concrete Pumps

Across the South east it appears there is a demand from the criminal networks for Schwing Concrete pumps. These machines can be towed behind large commercial vehicles and have a huge value due to the specialised nature of the equipment. With second hand values ranging from £40-80,000 demand is likely to be high. Three have been stolen in the last two months from the South East area.



## Good news stories from around the UK

Congratulations to local Neighbourhood officers from Aylesbury Vale in Thames Valley Police area who recently arrested a plant thief.

Following a phone call from an observant member of the public, police saw this vehicle travelling in convoy with another vehicle through the local village. It was stopped and quickly identified as being a stolen machine which had been taken just twenty minutes earlier from Long Crendon. The suspect Andrew Sharpe from Northamptonshire has been charged and remanded with theft of this vehicle.



Congratulations to PC Tony Bunker of Leicestershire Police who working in association with PANIU officers and Kent and Northamptonshire Police has recovered two stolen 22 tonne excavators involved in an international fraud.

The machines were two of three excavators hired by the same criminals using false details. These fraudulently obtained machines were intended to be exported out of the country. Enguiries led police to a yard in Leicester, the last known location of one of the machines. A search was conducted and further enquiries made resulting in the first excavator being recovered at Dover Docks on an Italian low loader bound for Romania.

The machine across was recovered at another yard in Leicestershire. Enquiries continue.

If you have any good news stories that you want published in the next edition to highlight good police work, clever scams, or plant theft success stories then please forward them to paniu@met.police.uk

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## **CESAR Plant Identification News**

**CESAR Plant Identification -** In 2007, PANIU officers recognised the need for a National Plant Equipment identification scheme which would allow police officers to easily identify all types of plant equipment without the need for specialist vehicle examination knowledge or skills.

A partnership with both the Construction and Farming industries led to the the Construction Equipment Security and Registration (CESAR) scheme being launched by the Construction and Equipment Association (CEA) on behalf of the entire Industry. Datatag, the system provider, won an extensive tender process and is now seen as the official recognised Home Office and ACPO datahandler.

The scheme, purposely designed to aid the Roads Policing Officer with an easy identification and recognition for equipment, combines a triangular tamperproof CESAR registration plate and other layers of identification technology, is linked to a 24/7 secure and accredited database.

It has now been adopted by the Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA) and is now starting to appear as standard fitment on farm machinery as well. Over 46,000 items of plant machinery have now been registered.

## **The Official CESAR Scheme**

Recovery of CESAR marked products has increased to almost 30% from the previous recovery rate of 5% for non marked equipment.

Between October 2008 and March 2011 over 45,000 items of plant have been registered with the CESAR scheme.

To date during that same period 358 of those CESAR registered machines have been reported as stolen. Ninety eight (98) of those have been recovered post theft giving a 27.3 % recovery rate. This can be compared against a 5% recovery rate prior to the introduction of CESAR.

At a meeting of National Police Vehicle examiners held at Thatcham it was recently decided that recovered plant equipment would now be identified by Police examiners with CESAR identification which would add provenance of recovered equipment.

Police around the country are now applying to the CEA/AEA to become authorised CESAR fitters in accordance with the strict criteria set out to protect the CESAR scheme.

Full details of the scheme can be accessed using the link www.cesarscheme.org.







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## **PANIU / CESAR Training**

A reminder that PANIU offer free training to any UK police force, Partner company or Association to assist and highlight plant theft issues.

PANIU will also deliver free training to private companies and insurance company partners and can also present at conferences, and rural crimewatch roadshows etc if required.

A number of presentations can be offered to industry to assist awareness and what can be done to prevent plant and rural crime.

All training requests should be directed to PANIU@met.police.uk or ian.elliott@met.police.uk

For Police training PANIU can deliver four different courses but can offer training specifically tailored to the exact needs required by the force.

- 1. One hour introduction lessons to patrol officers to give a basic overview of plant and agricultural equipment theft issues.
- 2. A full day instructional event including practical demonstrations aimed at Roads Policing Officers and patrol officers.
- 3. A two day specialist course intended for Force autocrime vehicle examiners.
- An authorised CEA/AEA CESAR fitment course.

This Quarter PANIU has delivered specialist CESAR training to 40 specialist vehicle examiners in association with CESAR Datatag and the Hire Executive Show held at the RICOH stadium. Officers were given instruction and then encouraged to view the latest machinery exhibits at the Trade show.

PANIU Officers also attended Omagh in Northern Ireland in association with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Euro Auctions, the largest plant sales company in the UK to deliver plant training to over one hundred officers.

The training lasted for a week and helped to deliver specialist training, plant recognition and CESAR identification to members of the PSNI. So successful was previous training last year, PSNI delivered a 23% reduction in reported plant and machinery theft.

This guarter PANIU have given further training to Gloucestershire Police, Thames Valley Police, Wiltshire Police, Hampshire Police, Norfolk Constabulary, Kent Police and the Port of Dover Police.



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### **Roadshow Events**



Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit

PANIU joined CESAR recently at the Ricoh Stadium for the Executive Hire Show and the LAMMA show in Lincolnshire.

We will be attending the ACPO Vehicle Crime Conference and Thatcham Focus Event on the 15th June and then attending the Cereals 2011 Rural Event in Lincolnshire on the 16th June 2011.

If you want to meet any of the PANIU team then please pop in and see us. We will be more than happy to discuss any issue!!

## **PANIU Plant Guides**

After extensive consultation with officers from around the Country the first copies of the PANIU Plant Identification Guide will be shortly published.

A pocket guide is aimed to assist all police with identification of the most stolen plant machines and how to identify them quickly.

The guide will also be available as an App download which will allow officers to view the contents of the guide in full colour on their mobile phones.



Initial orders for the hard copy guides are to be made in the first instance to PANIU via PANIU@met.police.uk. Or give us a ring on 0207 230 7290.





## Spot the mistake Police Reports?

Below are genuine police reports which have appeared this quarter on the Police National Computer! All records on the PNC are checked by PANIU and corrected. See if you can Spot the mistakes...

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Pics of the month

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One of the latest and largest machines to be fitted with CESAR, a £120,000 Househam sprayer.



Certainly one of the fastest machines to be fitted with CESAR this quarter!! The £125,000 Datatag CESAR 450bhp Porsche 911 Carrera which is racing in the Great Britain Carrera Cup Series.



Oh Dear....



Ploughing Chinese Style...

## **CESAR DRAWS A CROWD IN LAS VEGAS**

Construction equipment theft is a growing problem in the USA. Insurance sources say theft costs construction companies up to \$1 billion per year in lost assets. Professional thieves see construction equipment theft as a low-risk, high-reward opportunity. Typically, the risk of being caught is low because equipment is difficult to trace and is often located on remote, unsecured jobsites.

As a result Datatag, the market leading security products provider and the power behind the official UK plant security and registration scheme-CESAR, got an excellent reception at Conexpo 2011 (Las Vegas March 22-26). CESAR is the most successful and widely used machinery security and registration scheme in the world with over 45,000 registrations. Visitors to the Datatag booth included managers from equipment manufacturers, rental houses, and insurance and finance companies.

## **VOLVO MINIS CESAR MARKED**

Volvo Construction Equipment announced, at the opening of the Executive Hire Show, that 4 of its range of mini- excavators will be protected with CESAR security and registration. Construction machines are now 4 times more likely to be stolen than a car in the UK and mini-excavators are the most commonly stolen type, with over 800 stolen in the past 2 years, and so the move is a logical one!

From mid-February the Volvo EC15C, 17C, 18C, and 20C machines, from 1.5t to 1.9t, will be protected with CESAR registration and an Enigma P2 tracking system. This step brings the Volvo mini's up to Thatcham 3 star rating qualifying the machines for insurance premium discounts.

To read the full articles go to: http://www.cesarscheme.org/News.html











CEA

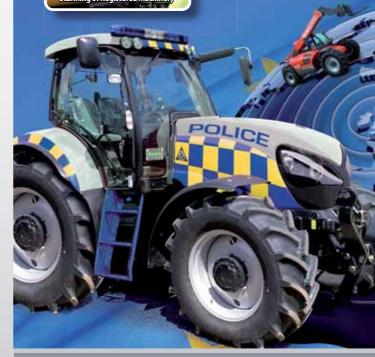




# STOP PLANT THEFT

#### Did you know...

- The Plant and Agricultural National Intelligence Unit is a specialist Police Unit whose remit is to assist Police and other law enforcement agencies with the identification of stolen plant or agricultural machinery. • We offer support and advice to help you identify any type of plant or agricultural machine.
- We maintain the most accurate police database of all stolen machines throughout the UK.
- manufacturers loss data.
- in your area.
- We provide specialist police examiners for pre planned operations.
- We provide training and advice to officers around identification and
- investigative techniques





**PROTECT YOUR EQUIPMENT NOW!** Call 08 450 700 440 | www.cesarscheme.org 

## **10th Quarterly Report (January - March 2011)**

### If you have any information on the theft of machinery or require advice, then contact: **Plant & Agricultural National Intelligence Unit**

Uke record all national theft data and have access to the PNC and the majority of plant insurers and

We offer advice, intelligence and statistical information regarding organised criminal networks working

- We can provide suitable 'sting' vehicles including tractors and excavators at nil cost.



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You can contact PANIU during office hours by ringing 0207 230 7290

by Police by ringing CESAR on **08 450 700 440** 24 hours a day!

PANIU is staffed by Police Officers there to help You!



## Plant Theft - The Real Truth

PANIU is a specialist police unit dedicated to reducing plant theft in association with:



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