



Pol-PRIMETT Expert User Group



Athena, Greece July 2012



Expert User Group Workshop 3

Influencing the judicial system and sentencing metal thieves

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Content:

Influencing the judicial system and sentencing metal thieves

- Your experience

- British experience





- Please share your experience
 - Successes
 - Problems
 - Solutions



3 stage approach

Letters Magistrates



Presentations

Magistrates



Specialist Prosecutors and Policy leads

The offe	now of theR is well undershood and there is good commentary available in general
ingsi teu	Is. The following sections deal with some specific aspects of their offences on which
prisecul	on may be achief to advice.
Theft a	of metal
The im	
Netsi fre	if has a significant and powelimus disproportionals impact on indusity and the wider
-	Ry ant Nor the rathersy numbers have be particularly servery. Compare signal subling lands in
The sea	sel for the rational and sold illusiable as some metal. This is a major concern for
Sadwark .	Rail and the British Transport Pulse (MTP) nut only because of the sont implications.
but abo i	because of diangetion to services and safety screetrs.
There a	is also a significant number of thefts targeted at electricity supply lines and sub- These may result in a high level of danger, not only for these reconciling the that had
There is	ove also lover high profile sames of theft of statial from situation made and war
	it. Other public limitings and places of working are similarly at risk. Such thefts can risk response that
	to other of the metal concerned is spreetimes readigitie by comparison with the
	where the evidence meets the Full Code Test set out in the <u>Code for Crown</u>
Dates	
Outlini	ng the facts
When to	dring the facts of such sames, prosecutors should ensure that they highlight the gast and consequences of such offending so as to enable courts to sentence
ander an	gail and consequences of such offending to as to enable courts to services
Roberty	and other transport services, electricity supplies, schools, instruction, disorders may
to days	red or slooed as well as large numbers of householders inconvenienced.
Presented	ors should actually consider sittaining information on the impact and effect of such sich may on far wider than the direct tops or damage counted. Utility comparison
Divery 1	persion, double organizations and other such todes may be able to anyote an
indextie	of the order impact of the theft or damage charged.
	the Theft Act 1968
Previded	The requisite elements of the offeree are satisfied, that will usually be the result offeree for the removal of Electricite cabling and other equipment or metal.
Courses .	ifferitie for the removal of Eachtode caping and other equipment or metal. of handling may be appropriate for those faund in possession of doten metal where
	ors should always contaider whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed with a
personal	burglary) shared an the doctime of 'secard procession' (see Record or abarehere in the puldarise).
Uning	he Criminal Damage Act 1971
Currage	caused in the course of stealing or as a direct result of a theft may be referred to
where our	firing the facts of a case or requesting companyation. Prosenutors should, however,
ano onn	side specific charges for erminal damage where relevant. (Refer to legal publicities to Carrage for advice on charging).
anser's	was not taken, but significant damage was paused in an attempt to do ap-
THE GAR'S	age was significant, particularly by reference to the value of any dense states;
noording	help in the clear presentation of the case and for the purposes of sentence and the participant convictions.
Chairpon 1	the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964
The fact	
	many any afferences for new compilance

Results



A judge at Southwark Crown Court has imposed jail sentences totalling 21 years and six months on a gang of seven metal thieves who, amongst other things, posed as communication workers to steal BT cables. At least one of their offences, the theft of a cable connecting two hospitals, had significant potential to put lives at risk by compromising patient care.

The longest jail terms were imposed on the gang's ringleader, Stephen Fraser, 52, who was sentenced to five years, and his assistant William House, 45, who got four years.

Passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court, London, the judge said:

"I have no doubt that it is necessary to impose deterrent sentences in each case."

"The country has a real and very grave problem with metal theft.

"I must send out a clear message that those who are tempted to make easy money by stealing metal will, when caught, be punished by immediate and substantial custodial sentences."

Results





Cable thieves sent to jail after being caught red-handed







Two thieves who stole almost 250 metres of BT cable in Eccles, near Aylesford have been each sentenced to 3 years in prison.

38-year-old Bernard Anthony Prebble of no fixed abode pleaded guilty to charges of theft and 38-year-old Colin Wray of Coldharbour Lane, Aylesford was found unanimously guilty of theft by a jury after appearing at Maidstone Crown Court yesterday (3 February).

The court heard how in the morning of 2 November, police received a call from a dog walker who had discovered the cable in a field by Bull Lane, Eccles. The cable, which would have been worth £4180 in scrap value, had been dragged into the field after being pulled up from two BT manhole covers and had been cut into sections ready for transportation.



Officers spotted two men trying to run away from the field. Police search teams found Prebble nearby with a pair of cable cutters, while Wray was discovered in the undergrowth using a police helicopter infrared camera.

Due to the prevalence of metal theft in Kent, the judge decided he would impose a sentence of three years as a deterrent to others.

DC Alan Poulton from Kent Police who investigated the case comments: "I hope that this result sends a tough message that metal theft will not be tolerated. We are putting significant resources around targeting metal theft and have organised many dedicated operations to target this particular issue.

Metal theft may seem a crime without victims but it can have devastating consequences and can cause



Questions?

