



PoI-PRIMETT Expert User Group



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BRITISH
TRANSPORT
POLICE

Expert User Group Workshop 3

Influencing the judicial system and sentencing metal thieves

*Chair: Detective Superintendent
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**BRITISH
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Content:

**Influencing the judicial system and
sentencing metal thieves**

- Your experience**
- British experience**

Experiences

- **Please share your experience**
 - **Successes**
 - **Problems**
 - **Solutions**

3 stage approach

Letters Magistrates

Presentations Magistrates

Specialist Prosecutors and Policy leads



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."

Metal thieves sentenced to 3 years in jail

Cable thieves sent to jail after being caught red-handed



Tweet



Like

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?

