

BMRA

www.recyclemetals.org



Metal Theft
the recycling industry perspective

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Industry image?

Misconceptions:

- “Scrap” = low quality materials
- A way to get rid of old cars, bikes and household debris
- Outmoded

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... or worse?



Metals recycling – why?

- Aluminium:
 - Energy savings: 95% (45 GJ/tonne) *
 - CO₂ savings: 92% (3.54 tonnes CO₂/tonne)
- Copper
 - Energy savings: 63% (11 GJ/tonne)
 - CO₂ savings: 65% (0.8 tonnes CO₂/tonne)
- Lead:
 - Energy savings: 99% (10 GJ/tonne)
 - CO₂ savings: 99% (1.61 tonnes CO₂/tonne)

* 45GJ would provide electricity for a 3-bedroom house for about 3 years

UK Metals recycling –

UK Totals: *

- Number of UK metal recyclers: 1,800
 - *80% employ less than 10 staff*
- Market value: £5.9bn
- Value of exports: £3.7bn.

Metals recycling - reality

- Europe's biggest recycling industry
- A leader in world trade
- Essential secondary raw material
- Huge environmental benefits
- Vital to European sustainability
- Highly regulated and working to international specifications & standards

Metal theft

- Consequential costs from infrastructure thefts often massive.
- However:
 - Metal involved is a minute proportion of total trade. We estimate it at around 0.1% of the total trade
 - minimal value to the legitimate industry

Metal crime - environmental & other issues

- Illegal operators likely to ignore:
 - Environmental legislation intended to protect watercourses, soil and air
 - Health and safety legislation to protect staff and customers
 - Tax Regulations

Metal crime - environmental & other issues

- **Illegal operators:**
 - More likely to provide route to market for stolen material
 - Have lower operating costs – can offer better prices for legitimate scrap.

What should we do.....?

- Reform the Scrap Metal Dealers' Act (1964) to ensure anyone selling metal is required to produce photo ID
- New system of licensing scrap metal dealers and Collectors with resources allocated to effectively enforce
A national register of scrap metal dealers
- Effective national enforcement against illegal and unlicensed scrap metal yards that provide an outlet for stolen materials.
- National policing guidelines – a single, national approach which recognises that although theft is local issue, the disposal of stolen metal can take place anywhere in the country

***THEN LET'S TALK ABOUT
BANNING CASH PAYMENTS***