



SelectaDNA®

Advanced Forensic Marking

Newsletter **ISSUE 20**

**Security...
It's in our DNA!**



Met Launches DNA Tagging Spray Against Moped Crime



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

The Metropolitan Police have deployed the new SelectaDNA Tagging Spray as an innovative strategy to deal with the ongoing problem of moped theft, acid attacks and the anti-social riding of powered-two-wheel vehicles.

However, it is not just a London problem, and other forces have already been using the proven DNA spray technology including West Midlands Police, West Yorkshire Police, Cheshire Police and Merseyside Police.

The DNA spray is invisible to the naked eye but when exposed to UV light illuminates blue and allows officers to identify offenders and seize their bikes.

Merseyside Police have used the spray to secure two convictions for anti-social behaviour and dangerous driving; and West Yorkshire Police have another offender in custody, awaiting trial in October.

There has been a significant increase in the number of moped crime offences carried out in the Capital in the last year.

In the 12 months to the end of June 2017, the Met logged 16,158 crimes involving powered-two-wheel vehicles compared with 5,145 the year before.

Police say the average age of moped offenders in the capital is just 15 and they typically use stolen motor bikes and scooters to commit other crimes, averaging 54 crimes a day in London.

Det Supt Stuart Ryan, who heads the anti-moped crime operation, said the new tagging spray "gives us a chance to track offenders in a different way."

Once the offender has come into contact with the spray solution, officers can later carry out follow up visits to known suspects' home addresses armed with handheld UV lamps to detect the product on the person, clothing and footwear.

Where there is evidence of SelectaDNA, the suspect will be arrested and clothing will be seized.

James Brown, MD of Selectamark, which produces the DNA Tagging Spray, said:

"This is a great example of how innovative technology is helping police catch criminals and remove anti-social offenders and dangerous drivers from our streets.

"It only takes a tiny drop of DNA spray to tag and identify an offender and this tactic will undoubtedly lead to more seizures and prosecutions."

-  Between July 2016 and June 2017 there were 14,943 thefts of 'powered two-wheel vehicles', which accounted for 50% of all vehicles stolen in London.
-  9,960 scooters were stolen in 2014, of which 51% were recovered, while 61% of the scooters stolen in 2016 were recovered.
-  60% of all recorded bike thefts in the UK were in London last year, despite less than 10% of the UK's registered motorcycles and scooters being registered within the capital.

Source: MCN (Motorcycle News)

More on Moped Crime
Operations on pages 4 & 5

Met Protects 35,000 Mobile Devices With DNA

Selectamark has been appointed as 'Official Supplier of the Forensic Property Marking Product for the Metropolitan Police Mobile Technology'.



The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and Selectamark are working together to mark and protect the roll-out of 35,000 new mobile and laptop devices being issued to MPS officers.

The devices are being marked with SelectaDNA, a forensic property marking product that contains a unique synthetic DNA code that is traceable.

The product is almost invisible when applied but can be seen under UV light. In the event that a mobile device or laptop is lost or stolen, it can be traced back to the MPS if recovered, and can also incriminate an offender if they are found with stolen goods on them.

Nick Roach, Police Liaison Officer for Selectamark and a former Met Police Officer himself, said:

"Mobile devices allow officers to have technology at their fingertips while out on the streets. Devices can be used to file details of crime and issue crime numbers in real time without having to return to the police station. The use of technology within the police is important because it allows officers to spend more time on the frontline, increasing visibility and reassuring the public."

He continued: "Having served with the Met for 30 years helping to protect local communities in London, I am delighted to now be working on a project that will benefit these same communities.

Secure mobile technology devices will help free up officers' time to allow them to spend more resource fighting crime and less hours on paperwork."

James Brown, MD of Selectamark added: "This significant roll-out of mobile devices and laptops is key to the Metropolitan Police Service delivering a secure and professional service to the people of London.

The Met were looking for a forensic marking product to protect these devices, which was secure, proven to deter theft and provided by a professional and trusted organisation.

We are extremely proud to have been chosen, and excited to be working with the Metropolitan Police Service on this critical project."



At the Forefront of Rail Protection

Metal theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the UK costing the UK economy an estimated £770 million per year.

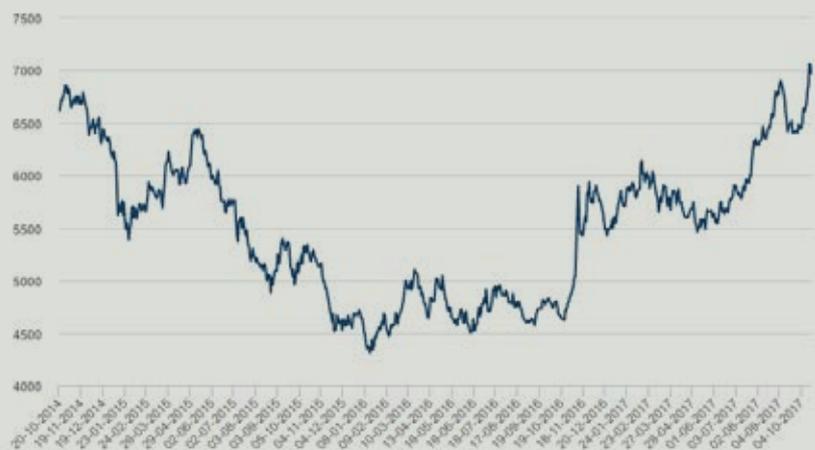
A recent study based on data from British Transport Police reveals that cable theft still happens on UK railways around five times a week, causing 23,670 minutes (the equivalent of 16 days worth) of delays to passengers.

With copper prices on the rise again, experts warn that cable theft will continue to soar, which is why so many organisations have turned to SelectaDNA to protect their infrastructure.

According to the Local Government Association (LGA), the theft of materials ranging from electricity cables to metal from railway lines, war memorials, road signs, children’s playground equipment and church roofs has cost the UK as much as £770 million a year.

The rising price of Copper 18/10/2014 to 18/10/2017

LME COPPER HISTORICAL PRICE GRAPH



Source: www.lme.com

James Brown, MD at SelectaDNA said: “The theft of cable, metal, tools and equipment is more than just an issue of cost; it can lead to major disruptions in services and create serious safety concerns. That’s why we continue to provide and develop award-winning solutions to help reduce metal theft around the world.”

Since launching SelectaDNA in 2004, its achievements in reducing theft, burglaries and robberies have been remarkable.

SelectaDNA has been responsible for reducing theft and burglaries by up to 83% in Police projects, and in 2016

won the UK Rail Industry’s Product Innovation award for its contribution in reducing cable theft across Network Rail routes by 93%, and ensuring zero thefts over two years on the High Speed 1 route.



SelectaDNA Trace is an aerosol that invisibly marks metal with thousands of unique microdots.

Available in 150ml and 250ml aerosols.

For a full range of our metal theft products, go to:
www.selectadna.co.uk/metal-theft

Social Crime Fighting

Police forces are continuing to use social media to highlight their innovative SelectaDNA crime reduction schemes to the public and local communities. Remember to tag us [@selectadna](https://twitter.com/selectadna) with your campaigns.



SelectaDNA leads to a 32% reduction in scrambler crime



West Yorkshire Police have seen a 32% reduction in off road crime in the areas that the project has been piloted in.

This success follows on from our front page story in our last newsletter (Issue 19) where we announced that West Yorkshire Police were the latest force to be deploying the SelectaDNA Defence Spray as a new and effective strategy against scrambler bike crime.

Lawless Bike Offenders Tagged



West Midlands Police officers are being armed with SelectaDNA Defence Spray in the latest tactic against off-road bike offenders who plague the region's streets and parklands.

Around 40 traffic police officers from West Midlands Police are being given the canisters to 'tag' motorbikes and riders causing a nuisance in communities.



The forensic material in each canister has a unique 'forensic barcode' which means officers can trace suspects to a particular crime or incident of anti-social behaviour.

West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent Dave Sturman, who heads the force's operation against reckless biking, said the spray will greatly increase the chances of identifying and prosecuting offenders.

He added: "The DNA spray is an inert, water-based product – it's not an irritant and won't cause any side effects – but it leaves an indelible mark that cannot be scrubbed off.

If officers are unable to apprehend offenders at the time they can utilise the spray – and if it later shows up on suspects, their clothes or bikes we can link them to a particular incident. The spray has previously been used by police in Merseyside and London with considerable success.

Even just a drop of DNA spray will mark riders and their bikes for a long time... this tactic will undoubtedly lead to more seizures and prosecutions."

West Midlands Police arrested suspected bike offenders and seized 38 motorbikes during two crackdowns in December 2016 and March this year. More than 50 people are currently under investigation pending a charging decision by the Crown Prosecution Service under 'public nuisance' legislation - and if convicted they face a potential jail sentence.

The DNA spray is initially being trialled by teams of traffic officers ahead of a proposed force-wide roll-out. West Midlands Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner Ashley Bertie added: "Reckless bikers are not only a danger to themselves but also put innocent lives at risk; we are bringing in new measures to catch them and take their bikes away, and this is a clear sign that lawless behaviour on off-road bikes will not be tolerated."

For more information on SelectaDNA Defence Sprays, go to:
www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-defence-spray

Operation Scrambler Tracks Off Road Bikers



SelectaDNA Defence Sprays are also being used to crack down on the illegal use of scrambler bikes in Widnes, Cheshire.



Police are using the SelectaDNA Defence Spray to try to catch the culprits. The spray, which is invisible to the naked eye, is being used by officers to mark riders' skin, clothing and bike with a dye which can later be traced to a specific incident.

Inspector Chris Adkins, from Widnes Local Policing Unit, said:

"The anti-social use of motorcycles is not only dangerous but also affects the wellbeing of the community. We will continue to work tirelessly to

identify and prosecute the individuals responsible for this sort of behaviour. The DNA spray will mark the riders and bikes for a significant period of time, allowing us to trace and prosecute them."

The spray has been funded in partnership with Halton Council, Halton Housing Trust and the Halton Community Safety Team.

The spray enables officers to use UV torches to identify offenders and link them to a specific incident through a unique DNA code.

Widnes officers working on the Operation Scrambler campaign are carrying the spray ready for deployment as and when needed.

Halton Housing Trust's tenancy services manager Mark Harvey said: *"Our residents have been tormented by illegal off-road motorbikes being driven around our estates for a number of years. This new DNA spray will assist the police in identifying the individuals who are causing such distress to people."*

Medieval Marking



Cadets from Great Yarmouth Police have been busy marking historic church equipment including candlesticks and altar ware to protect them from theft.

The marking session using SelectaDNA took place at St George's in Rollesby, Norfolk, a medieval parish church dating back to the 14th century.

Cheshire Police has also stepped back in time, offering a DNA marking kit to Norton Priory, a 900 year old monastic site with 18th century walled gardens.

SelectaDNA does not damage or devalue historic artefacts, art or antiques in any way. However, if valuable items are stolen and recovered by police from thieves, they can be quickly traced back to the original church or museum.



Victoria Police Launch Campaign To Cut Crime



PROTECT | PREVENT



An Australian-first crime prevention property marking trial has been launched by Victoria Police in alliance with community, government and private sector stakeholders.

The Protect/Prevent campaign is using SelectaDNA, a recent innovation in traceable liquid property marking, which enables people to mark and register valuable items for future identification purposes.

It is the first campaign presented by Safety Alliance Victoria, a new collaborative crime-fighting body comprising Victoria Police, Royal

Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV), Neighbourhood Watch, Crime Stoppers and Federation University.

A six-month trial of the property marking technology, which is being evaluated by Federation University, has begun in 1,000 homes across Geelong and Whittlesea.

Local police and Neighbourhood Watch volunteers have been delivering SelectaDNA kits to residents.

Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Tess Walsh said Protect/Prevent could help to significantly reduce residential burglaries.

“Residents can use the technology to safeguard their possessions and homes which we hope will go a long way in deterring thieves and driving down the number of residential burglaries.

With the support of the City of Greater Geelong and City of Whittlesea, Protect/Prevent will also be assisted by visual saturation of the campaign through street and house signage in order to further deter potential offenders.”

Convenience Stores in New Zealand DNA-Protected



More than 50 convenience stores in New Zealand, which police fear could be targeted by armed robbers, are to have DNA Spray installed in them so that offenders can be identified.

The SelectaDNA Spray, which contains a unique chemical that links offenders to crime scenes, is among three technologies (including fog cannons and sound barriers) that police are co-funding as part of a NZD1.8 million police anti-robbery initiative, along with store owners whose shops have been identified as being vulnerable to armed robbery.

There has been a spate of aggravated robberies in convenience stores (known as dairies in New Zealand) and petrol stations in recent months with offenders targeting cigarettes and cash.

David Morrissey, SLS Security Group director, which distributes SelectaDNA in New Zealand, said: “We need a size of a pinhead of that solution to irrefutably put the offender at the crime scene. It works as a deterrent because there’s no question that they were at the crime.”



No Robberies in First 3 Months of Topaz Trial



Topaz, the largest fuel and convenience brand in Ireland, has formed a partnership with SelectaDNA to trial the DNA Spray system at service stations in Dublin.

The partnership has resulted in no robberies in the first three months of the trial.

SelectaDNA Spray, which soaks intruders in a solution containing a unique DNA code and UV tracer, is the ultimate commercial burglary and robbery deterrent, and an ideal way for businesses, shops, banks and other premises to protect their valuable stock and assets.

Topaz chose the system to safeguard staff from robbery, initially at six service stations in Dublin, and is the first fuel company in Ireland to do so.

A security advisor for Topaz said: "The concept is tried and tested in the UK and globally. It relies strongly on crime prevention with evidential follow up. We believe that this initiative will prove to be an additional aid to assist in the prevention and detection of retail crime."



Textbook Way To Solve Crime



This year's Danish Criminal Report (Dansk Kriminalrapportage 17) contains an entire chapter on SelectaDNA. The book is published every year in Denmark and contains details of the most high-profile police cases and technologies.

Henrik Olsen, SelectaDNA's distributor in Denmark, said: "Every day we hear about crimes in the otherwise peaceful Denmark, but we rarely hear about the time-consuming and intensive investigation work that follows."

A whole chapter has been devoted to how SelectaDNA has helped police beat crime in Denmark and explains how traceable DNA marking has made it much harder to be a criminal."

Cutting The Power On Danish Van And Tool Theft



Theft from vans is an increasing problem in Denmark. Many construction companies are marking their power tools and valuable items in vans with SelectaDNA and displaying warning stickers to reduce theft.



Danish police have recovered tools from one of the largest construction companies in Denmark. The company was unaware the tools had been stolen until the police contacted them. The arrested suspect is now in custody awaiting trial.

Vehicle Crime Up 30% In Three Years



Vehicle theft has risen by 30% in the last three years, according to latest figures from motoring group RAC. Almost 86,000 vehicles were stolen in 2016, up from about 66,000 in 2013.

The RAC says thieves are getting better at beating modern security systems by using new technology and that the rise in robberies reverses a downward trend. The RAC obtained the figures from 40 police forces in England and Wales, which revealed that 85,688

vehicles were stolen last year - up 30% from 65,783 in 2013. London was the worst place for vehicle theft with nearly a third being taken from the capital, followed by the West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester.

In response to this dramatic crime rise and challenging the theory that car thieves are one step ahead of the game, SelectaDNA has launched a new range of vehicle kits to mark all types of vehicles including 4x4s, classic cars, vans, and motorbikes.

By marking a vehicle with SelectaDNA a unique formula of DNA, UV tracer and microdots – and displaying deterrent warning stickers in the vehicle's windows, the chances of theft are dramatically reduced.

For a full range of products to protect your vehicle from theft check out:

www.selectadna.co.uk/dna-asset-marking/selectadna-vehicle-kit

Drive To Combat Motorbike Thefts



Merseyside Police, in partnership with Sefton Safer Communities Partnership, are distributing SelectaDNA marking kits in Sefton, as a continued response to the theft and anti-social use of scooters, motorbikes and mopeds in the area.

The kits allow owners to mark and protect their vehicle.

Local Community Sergeant Kate Young said: "Theft and anti-social behaviour involving bikes will not be tolerated, and this is another great crime prevention tool for owners.

DNA marking has previously helped police to reduce business robbery

and burglary offences and can also be beneficial in targeting the theft and anti-social and criminal use of bikes and scooters.

We are looking forward to welcoming members of the community and giving out the kits and any crime prevention advice that they need."

Councillor Trish Hardy, Sefton Safer Community Partnership Chair, said: "We agreed to fund these security kits to help assist Merseyside Police in targeting those criminals who continue to blight our thriving communities by stealing motorbikes, scrambler bikes and mopeds and using them in an anti-social manner."

▶ Watch our NEW vehicle marking videos at www.youtube.com/selectadna

Cracking Down On Construction Theft



The construction industry continues to see a dramatic increase in the theft of small tools from their vans and sites.

It is reported that approximately 10% of tools used on UK construction sites are lost or stolen each year.

FM Conway, one of the leading infrastructure services companies in the UK, is now deterring theft by marking their tools with SelectaDNA – a unique formula of DNA, UV tracer and microdots - and displaying warning stickers in their fleet vehicles.

Top Marks For School Security Awards



Congratulations to Neil Beards and his team at Wolverhampton City Council who won the School Security Award at the Education Business Awards for their great work with West Midlands Police using SelectaDNA to protect local schools.

We covered this story in full in issue 19 of our SelectaDNA Newsletter as break-ins at over 60 schools in Wolverhampton have dropped by more than 70% following the use of SelectaDNA forensic marking kits to protect valuable ICT equipment from theft.

Space-Age Home Security



Top tech journalist James Day has described SelectaDNA as 'space-age' and 'an invisible innovation' that can help protect property and prevent burglaries.

James, a former tech editor for Metro newspaper and writer for the Gadget Show and Wired UK, was writing an article for an insurance website when he explained how "invisible DNA tagging from SelectaDNA could bring more criminals to justice with a dose of forensic genius".

"It works by marking possessions with a unique code that shows up under ultraviolet light and is identified as yours under a microscope," said James.

He went on to explain how SelectaDNA is relatively inexpensive to use at around £1 a marked item and that the technology has been taken to new levels.

"Intruders doused with the microscopic mist from an automated spray will glow under ultraviolet light for months, conclusively pinning them to the location," said James.

He concluded: "Just remember: deter, delay and detect is the name of the game. Top tech could be your greatest crime fighter to help you prevent burglaries."



Taking On The Waste Crime Fight

The fight against waste crime has a new recruit as DNA Dog Ronnie helps sniff out waste criminals.



The Environment Agency has stepped up efforts to tackle waste crime using a new DNA Spray and a four-legged recruit.

Ronnie the DNA dog is specially trained to trace baled illegal waste or loose items of illegally dumped waste sprayed with SelectaDNA, a unique forensic marking solution that harnesses the encoding power of DNA, enabling users to mark and identify items of property and criminals.

SelectaDNA Spray is already well used by enforcement agencies such as the police, but this is the first time the Environment Agency has used the tool.

Each SelectaDNA property marker and spray contains a unique DNA code. These codes allow police and now the Environment Agency to identify property and link criminals to the crime.

This proactive step is part of the regulator's bid to reduce levels of waste crime across the country.

Illegal dumping not only blights local communities but also harms the environment and undermines legitimate businesses.

Gill Clayton, from the Environment Agency's Disruption and Prevention Team explained: "We currently have a countrywide issue with the large scale dumping of poor quality waste which has been baled.

Some of these waste bales are being diverted to illegal sites during transportation from the waste producer and some of the criminality involves getting the contract from affected landowners to remove the waste that has been dumped but then not disposing of it in a legitimate fashion.

By using SelectaDNA to mark waste bales this will enable the EA to prove evidentially that waste from one site was moved to another illegal site.

Bales are normally transported using curtain sided lorries and loaded/unloaded using telehandlers trucks.

These items of plant and machinery are also likely to be contaminated whilst moving bales. Where we have the intelligence to support it we will also use Selectamark's Trespass Beads (which break upon impact, releasing a unique DNA solution) at locations to aid in the marking process.

In publicising the use of SelectaDNA we hope to prevent some of this waste criminality but where criminals are intent on carrying out waste dumping we will use the products to evidence their involvement and bring them to justice"

To find out more about SelectaDNA Trace or our DNA Search Dogs, please contact:

sales@selectamark.co.uk

Reducing Rural Crime In Wales



Breconshire Police have been promoting SelectaDNA to protect farm equipment and deter rural crime at events including one run by the National Sheep Association (pictured).

Officers have also been busy distributing kits to local farmers so that they can mark tools, equipment, gardening and agricultural machinery.

Also in Wales, an ongoing operation to reduce rural crime in the Wrexham area has been extended with scores of properties being visited in recent months.



Operation Steel was set up two years ago to tackle burglary, theft and vehicle crime.

Target areas were agreed with local communities based on crime statistics and the scheme has involved police visiting homes to offer a security site survey and issuing forensic SelectaDNA kits so property can be marked and made traceable if stolen.

A total of 420 properties across Wrexham and Flintshire have been visited.



Former PC Hazel Goss MBE, who retired in July after 30 years of protecting the public and fighting crime, said: "Marking property reduces the chances of it being stolen as it is very hard to get rid of because it is traceable, so handlers of stolen property will not touch it. This leaves the thief with the stolen property and an increased chance of being caught."

"Implementing the scheme has been very hard work for the team, but the results have been excellent with a huge drop in crime and residents feeling much safer in their homes and offering more reassurance to communities."

How Safe is Your Tack?



Tack, horse boxes and other horse riding equipment such as saddles, stirrups and bridles are often easy targets for thieves as they can be worth thousands of pounds and are often stored in remote locations. In response to being a victim of equine crime herself, horse owner Helen Lacey launched North Wales Horse Watch in 2010.



Seven years on and Helen, who co-ordinates the network, is now assisted by a team of volunteers and has the backing of North Wales Police. The Horse Watch team visits equine establishments to security mark tack and equipment with SelectaDNA and to offer security advice and information.



NEW SelectaDNA Tagging Spray



Following the success of SelectaDNA Defence Spray, a new DNA Tagging Product has been launched to identify moped criminals.

Prevent Criminal Behaviour

SelectaDNA Tagging Spray is the ideal deterrent against criminal behaviour because criminals know DNA technology links them to the crimes they commit.



How does it work?

The Tagging Spray works by spraying and tagging the offender with an invisible solution of unique synthetic DNA and UV marker that clings to skin and clothing for days, weeks or even months.

The solution contains a unique DNA code that is registered to the user and location. Police use an ultraviolet light to locate marked areas, immediately linking the offender to a crime scene.

The unit is operated with one hand for right-or-left handed persons. The Tagging Spray has an ergonomic handle with an automatic spring-cover locking device and first-use indicator. This provides protection against unintentional release.

- An ideal product for police and law enforcement officers that can be used to discreetly tag and identify an offender.
- SelectaDNA is proven technology that convicts criminals; the forensic DNA marker allows the police to conclusively link a suspect to a crime scene.
- The invisible marking spray should be aimed via the spray unit at the suspect's torso, with the intention of marking areas of the skin, clothing and the bike they are riding on.
- The registration of all SelectaDNA aerosol Tagging Spray units ensures a detailed evidence trail as each unit is registered to the user and location.



Please note:

SelectaDNA Tagging and Defence Sprays can only be purchased by Police forces and essential training is required by all users to ensure the correct use of the Tagging Spray.

For more information visit

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