



October 2011

Dear Mr Dutton

Operation Dragonfly

I am Jim Atherton the neighbourhood Police Inspector for Formby, Birkdale and Ainsdale.

I am writing to you to seek your support in a crime reduction initiative aimed primarily at bicycle thefts. We have noticed an increase in these types of offences across the Sefton area in 2011, especially in the north end of the borough including my neighbourhood. The initiative will also cover the registration of all electrical products including laptops, mobile phones, Ipods etc

I am putting together an initiative called Operation Dragonfly. It is aimed at bicycle owners registering their property for free on **immobilise.com**. The owner registers the make, model and most importantly frame number and other identifying numbers. The owner, can self register or Merseyside Police can do this for the individual. The same applies to all electric items.

The theme we are promoting is remember the three RRRs

- **R**educe the risk of being a victim,(Lock it or lose it)
- **R**ecord the details of your valuables and
- **R**egister them on immobilise.com.

I am looking to register property at road shows in schools starting over the next few weeks but then re-enforcing the initiative around Christmas time and then further events in March/April 2012.

The good news is Police forces nationally have 24/7 access for free to the registration database. We can only search by serial number and not by name or address. We have had several notable successes recently with phones, which are

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registered on the same database. The more bicycles we get registered, the more likely a stolen one would get returned to its owner and the less attractive they would be to an opportunist thief. I feel this would also make people feel more confident in purchasing a bicycle for their children. This of course relies on the normal crime prevention messages also being followed.

Can I ask that your staff are encouraged to register their own property on **immobilise.com** to see how easy it is. Likewise electrical items at the school can also be registered. We have had two cases recently with thefts of Laptop computers from school buildings. This scheme is complimentary to the use of Smartwater.

Would it be possible to include a short bulletin in your newsletters encouraging registration of bikes and valuables on **immobilise.com**. What is your policy regarding pupils bringing valuables into school? Will you consider making it mandatory for any electrical items or bicycles brought into the school to be registered on the website?

We have had three cases in recent weeks in the Southport and Formby areas where stolen phones have been identified by its IMEI number registered on the national mobile property register and people in possession of these phones have been charged with criminal offences. This is the same database which immobilise use to register property.

I can be contacted on 0151 777 4149 if you wish to discuss the initiative further or via e mail **jim.atherton@merseyside.police.uk** or Sergeant Nigel Stewart on 0151 777 4125 or via e mail **nigel.j.stewart@merseyside.police.uk**

Whilst the primary schools in my area do not have a designated schools officer my dedicated staff are each aligned to a school. Yours is PCSO 0377 Jai Edward.

He can be contacted on 0151 709 6010 or via email

b.bcu.wards.b5@merseyside.police.uk

The PCSOs plan to link in with you in the near future and offer property registration sessions.

Yours sincerely

Inspector Jim Atherton
Formby, Birkdale and Ainsdale Neighbourhood

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