

METAL THEFT

CHALLENGES, RESPONSES AND ENCOURAGEMENTS

Paul Playford
Ecclesiastical Theft of Metal Liaison Representative

Steve Lloyd and Gary Higgins
SmartWater Technology Limited



A large, dark red speech bubble with a gold outline and a drop shadow, containing the text "Metal theft is not a victimless crime" in a bold, gold, sans-serif font.

**Metal theft is not
a victimless crime**

Financial Impact

- 2009 Estimated impact on the UK economy of £770m
- 2012 ABI stated that metal theft is costing the industry £1m a week

Metal Theft & Ecclesiastical – scale of the problem

- Almost 12,000 claims since 2007
- £30m+ in claims settlements since 2007
- 2011 worst year on record – over 2,500 claims
- 7 churches targeted each day
- Multiple thefts – if one theft suffered then invariably there will be more
- Thieves becoming increasingly organised and bold, often posing as builders legitimately working on property

Theft of lead roofing –
not always immediately apparent and can lead to
extensive internal damage



St John's Church, Huddersfield



Ecclesiastical's multi-pronged strategy

- SmartWater
- Roof alarms
- Education and guidance
- Self assessment form
- Support and advice
- Participation in external initiatives
- Theft of Metal Liaison Representative



Simple guidance & advice

- Remove sources of easy access to roofs
- Store ladders securely places
- Scaffolding
- Limit vehicle access
- Engage with neighbours
- Anti-climb paint
- Regular checks on roofs



St Giles Church Codicote

STOP THEFT



HELP STOP LEAD ROOF THEFT

Vans or workmen around the
church between 6pm and 8am?
They're probably stealing our roof!

PLEASE CALL THE POLICE

**Roof Alarms,
the ultimate
deterrent for church
lead theft**

**100+ Churches
identified in England,
Scotland & Wales**

**Follow up mailings
To all churches**



**'Approved'
roof alarm
installers**

**Free
no-obligation
roof alarm survey**



The Telegraph

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"Voice of God" church alarms successfully deter thieves

The "voice of God" alarm systems fitted into church roofs have led to a dramatic fall in the number of metal thefts, it has emerged.

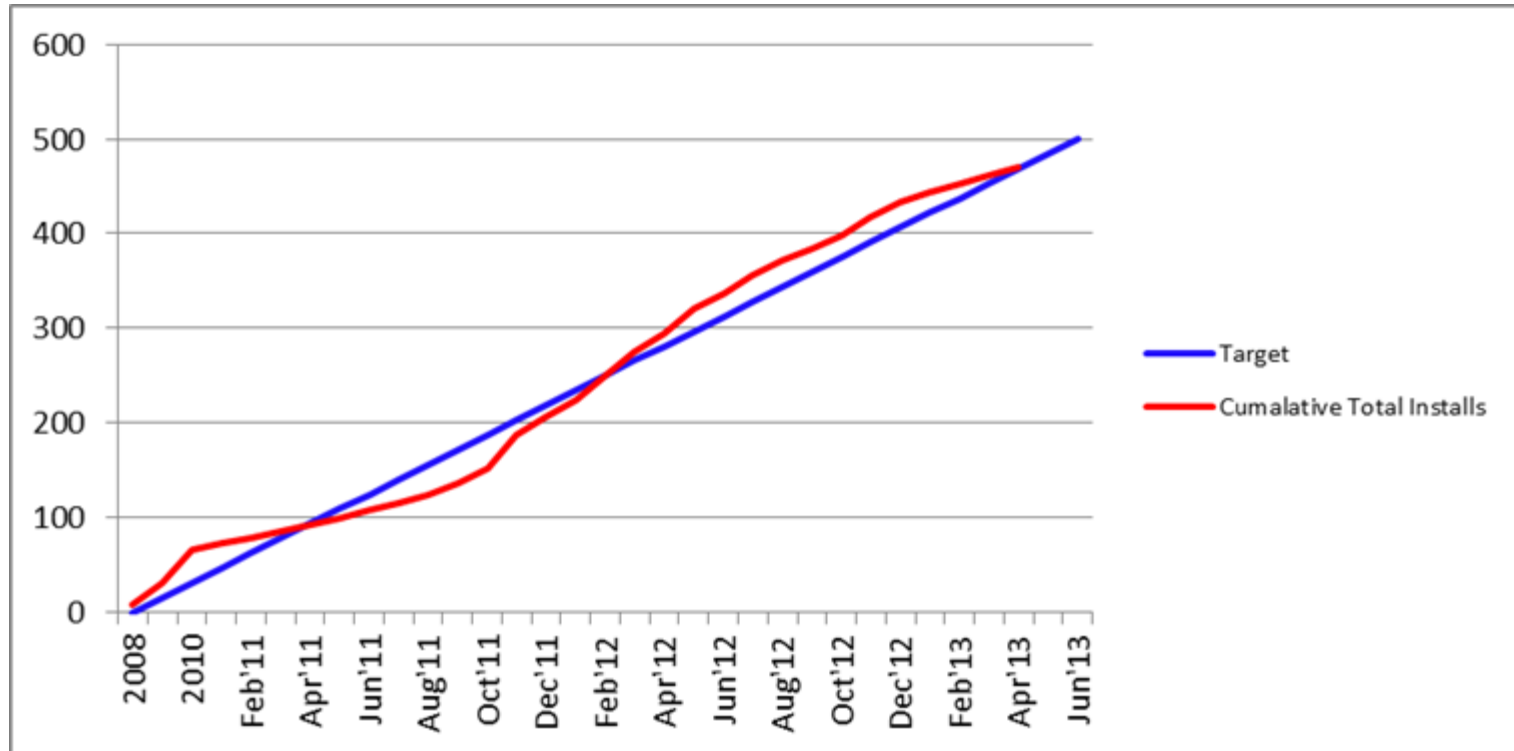


The Telegraph
24 Oct 2012





Target – to get 500 alarms installed by June 2013



471 roof alarms installed – 30/04/13

284 installed since the start of the HOO CR campaign

St Peters, Penhill

- Alarm activated 22:37hrs on the 9th June – guards arrive at 22:45hrs
- Guards report branches from a nearby tree on the ground and downpipe ripped from and missing from church
- Impact marks on ground near tree indicate a hasty retreat when alarm activated.
- Thieves took the downpipe but the roof remained intact



St Giles Church, Cropwell Bishop

- Alarm activated 22:55hrs on the 30th May – guards dispatched
- No persons found on site and no evidence of damage
- Two youths seen running away from church and police called
- On inspection there was a small amount of lead lifted but no lead stolen
- Prior to installing alarm church experienced lead theft resulting in £1,000's worth of damage



St Peter's Blackley

- Two foiled attempted thefts –
18:59hrs on 16th May and 19:48hrs
and 19:26hrs on the 20th May
- Church Warden thought initial
activation was false alarm.
E-Bound attended and discovered
sensor had been damaged - sensor
replaced and alarm reset
- Second attempt resulted in another
damaged sensor, which has been
replaced
- Church lead remains intact



**Free
SmartWater kits
To all Church
Policyholders**

**Policy
Condition**

**Discount
for
Policyholders**



**Annual
license fee
paid by Ecclesiastical**

**Covert
Operations**

The position at the end of 2012

**Total cost of TOM claims received in 2012:
£1,953,664**

Top 5 dioceses by claims value:

Salisbury, Winchester, Chelmsford, Bath & Wells, Manchester

Total number of TOM claims received in 2012: 932

Top 5 dioceses by claims count:

Salisbury, Chelmsford, Winchester, Chichester, Birmingham

Claims down by 60% compared with 2011

2013 as at 30th April

Total cost of TOM claims received: £310,719

Top 5 dioceses by claims value:

Durham, Salisbury, Chichester, Llandaff, Winchester

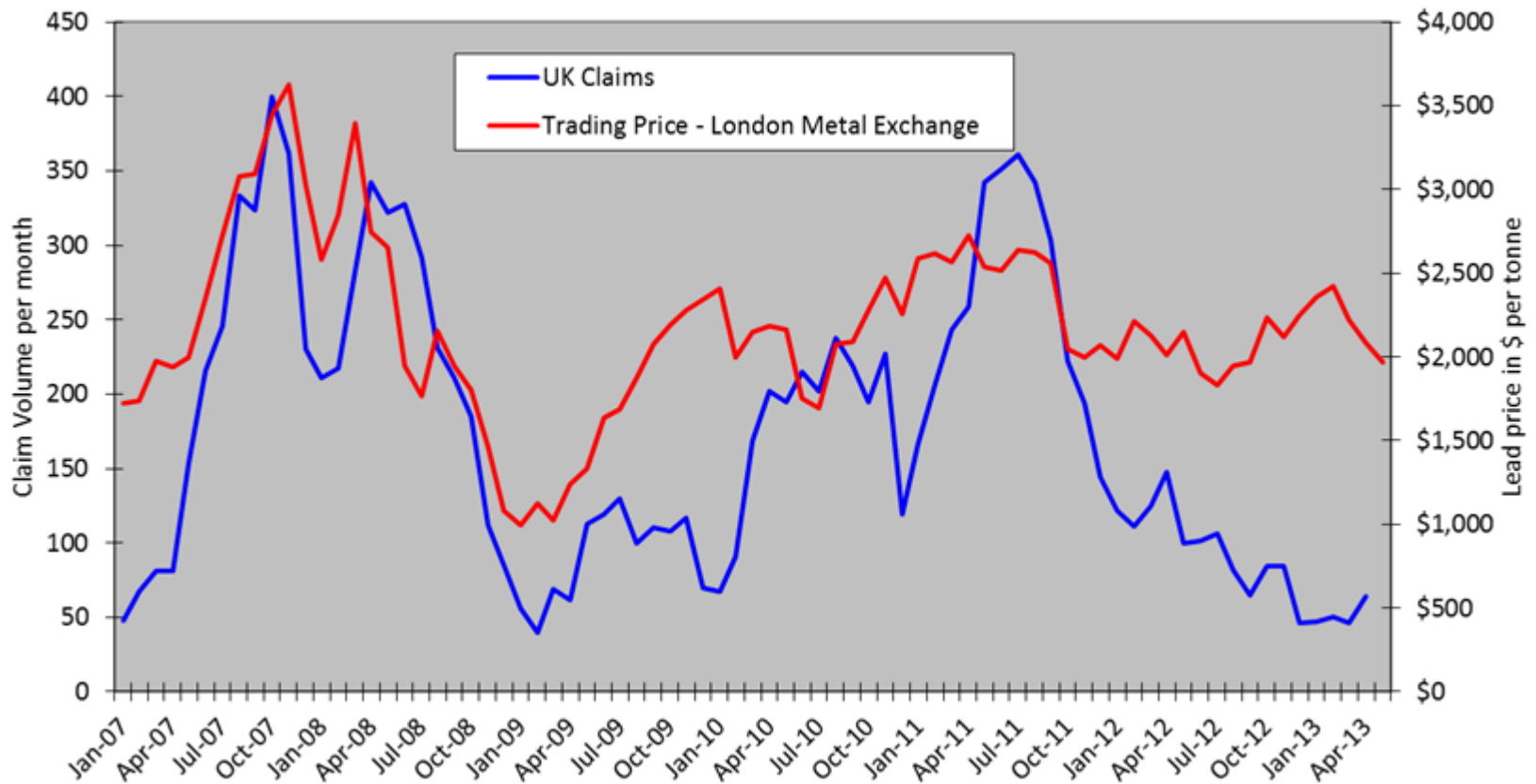
Total number of TOM claims received: 143

Top 5 dioceses by claims count:

Chichester, Durham, Salisbury, Wakefield, Winchester

Claims down by 59% compared Jan-April 2012

Claims v Lead Price (Jan'07 – Apr'13)



Legislation

- **Legal Aid, Sentencing & Punishment of Offenders Act**

Created a new criminal offence prohibiting scrap dealers from paying for scrap metal in cash

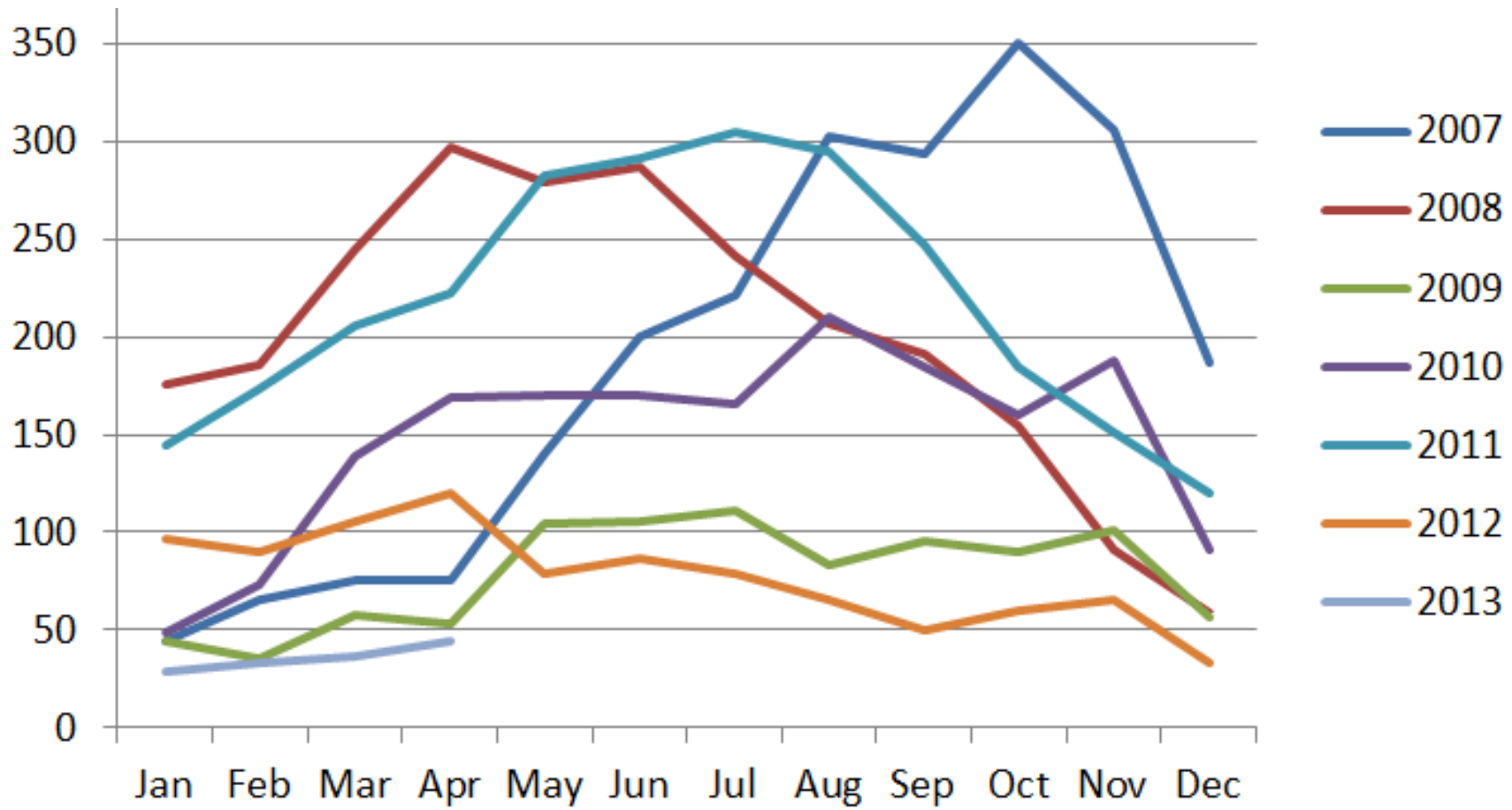
Requires sellers need to provide identification

- **Scrap Metal Dealers Act**

Introduces a licensing scheme to ensure every sale of scrap metal is accounted for, and that all people trading in scrap are doing so legitimately

**The situation is improving
but we can't be complacent**

Theft of Metal Claims (2007-2013)



The Future



The Future

- While profits remain high thieves will find outlets and losses will continue
- A coordinated approach
- Legislation is positive, but we need to ensure it is enforced
- Metal Theft Taskforce
- Need more work with the Port Authorities & HMRC