

Scrap Metal:

The Act and Enforcement

COURSE INFORMATION:

A recent report has stated that the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 isn't working due to a lack of enforcement. The Act was brought in to try to tackle and reduce metal theft, however a lack of enforcement means that this isn't working.

The report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Metal, Stone and Heritage Crime has identified three findings as part of its report:

Finding 1 - A dearth of data

The data gathered cannot be accurately analysed as it is not able to be recorded correctly. This doesn't assist enforcement agencies in trying to identify any patterns in metal theft or assist in maximising intelligence sharing with relevant agencies.

Finding 2 - A lack of enforcement means the Act is not working

Enforcement and compliance teams are spread so thinly that this work is not considered a high priority. Suitability checks aren't being completed in the depth expected, compliance checks aren't being completed as often or in enough depth to ensure that the licensed sites are adhering to the legislation, and those who are unlicensed are near impossible to trace and prosecute, or when they are there aren't the resources available to complete all the work required to get the case before the court in time.

Finding 3 - Reversing the loss of knowledge

Knowledge of the Act is reducing across both local authorities and police services. The report has urged a concerted effort by all local authorities to enforce compliance of the Act.



AUDIENCE

This course has been designed especially for police officers and police staff who may be involved in suitability checks, may attend scrap metal sites or encounter unlicensed collectors.

This course has been designed especially for police officers and police staff. This course is suitable for officers working in rural crime, community policing and immediate response, as well as officers involved in managing or assisting these teams, including intelligence officers.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the difference between a site and collector.
- Know what powers are available to stop, search and seize vehicles.
- Know what to look for when visiting a scrap metal site.
- Understand what to look for when dealing with a scrap metal collector.
- Know the powers of entry and enforcement powers available to police.