

HOC 47/2002

DATE 27 August 2002

THIS CIRCULAR IS ABOUT:

**THE VEHICLES (CRIME) ACT 2001:  
IMPLEMENTATION PART 1  
SECTIONS 1-16 REGULATION OF  
MOTOR SALVAGE OPERATORS**

**FROM:** PROPERTY AND ROAD CRIME REDUCTION UNIT (PRCRU)  
VEHICLE CRIME REDUCTION SECTION AND  
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATION AND SOCIAL POLICY SECTION

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: **21 OCTOBER 2002** EXPIRY DATE: N/A

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: ANNE LUND JOHN TIFFNEY  
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THIS CIRCULAR IS ADDRESSED TO:

**CHIEF OFFICERS OF POLICE  
(ENGLAND AND WALES)  
THE CHIEF CROWN  
PROSECUTOR  
THE JUSTICES' CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE (to be brought to the  
Justices' Clerk's attention)**

COPIES ARE BEING SENT TO:

**THE CLERK TO THE POLICE  
AUTHORITY (ENGLAND AND  
WALES)  
THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE OF  
ENGLAND AND WALES  
DISTRICT JUDGES -  
(MAGISTRATES' COURTS)  
THE MAGISTRATES'  
ASSOCIATION  
THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF  
MAGISTRATES' COURTS  
COMMITTEES  
THE ASSOCIATION OF JUSTICES'  
CHIEF EXECUTIVES  
THE JUSTICES' CLERKS'  
SOCIETY  
THE ASSOCIATION OF  
MAGISTERIAL OFFICERS  
THE MAGISTRATES' COURTS  
SERVICE INSPECTORATE  
THE HEAD OF CRIMINAL  
POLICY DIVISION (LCD)  
THE HEAD OF MAGISTRATES'  
COURTS DIVISION (LCD)  
THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

Dear Colleague

1. This circular informs you of the commencement of Sections 1-7 and 9-16 of the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001 (The Act). These provisions come into force on **21 October 2002** and extend to England and Wales.

2. Sections 1-7 and 9-16 will require motor salvage operators to register with the local authority, maintain appropriate records of purchases and disposals, and allow the police the right of entry to premises and the right of search without warrant.

3. These measures are designed to make it more difficult for criminals to dispose of stolen vehicles. Scrap metal dealers are regulated by the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 1964, but this does not apply to the motor salvage and dismantling industry. The lack of proper regulations meant that there were many opportunities for the criminal element in the motor salvage industry to dispose of stolen vehicles.

4. Two copies of a guidance document published jointly by the Home Office and the Local Government Association are enclosed with this circular for you to pass on to the appropriate person in your organisation.

5. Further information about this circular can be obtained from:

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Yours sincerely

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