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TRUCKPOL QUARTERLY REPORT JANUARY TO MARCH 2011

Welcome to the TruckPol quarterly report for the period January – March 2011. This report is not protectively marked and may be distributed freely without further reference to the originators

TruckPol is a national freight crime intelligence unit which forms part of the national ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service, collating and disseminating statistical data and intelligence on road freight crime within the UK. The theft of large goods vehicles and their loads causes significant economic and logistical harm to manufacturers, operators and retailers alike.

TruckPol is a public/private sector partnership and was supported by the Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers and industry stakeholders from haulage, insurance, security and manufacturing. Unfortunately, due to government calls to reduce spending, the Home Office has decided not to provide their portion of funding to AVCIS, from 1st April 2011. We are disappointed by this decision, particularly in light of recent successes but we recognise that budget cuts have been applied to many excellent departments, this year.

Nonetheless, AVCIS and TruckPol retain continuing support from ACPO and we retain excellent working relationships with private sector stakeholders. As a result, work streams funded through private sector sponsorship remain unaffected. We are currently reviewing general projects to determine what level of support we can give to national and international colleagues in the ongoing battle against well-organised criminals.

AVCIS is very much open for business, as usual, and we look forward to a challenging 2011.

TruckPol assists all UK police forces by disseminating intelligence on criminals and hosting meetings between the police and the haulage industry. We assist all stakeholders by acting as a central point of contact for their enquiries.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the pattern of freight crime in the first quarter of 2011. Using data supplied to us by UK police forces and by haulage industry stakeholders, we provide an analysis of the nature and extend of freight crime in the UK. The document illustrates the areas of the UK most at risk from this type of criminality and to identify the commodity types most frequently targeted.

This document relies on data extracted from databases maintained by TruckPol. It should be noted that data on which this report is based, is not a definitive list of all road freight crime, as not all crime is reported to police and not all police forces report all crime to TruckPol. Figures in this report may therefore be at variance with data held by individual forces.

Road freight crime by incident type

Crime Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Quarter Total
Theft From Vehicle	153	126	169	448
Theft of Vehicle	98	135	116	349
Att. Theft	11	17	27	55
Robbery	10	8	2	20
Att. Hijack	1	4	0	5
Warehouse	1	2	0	3
Deception	1	0	1	2
Hijack	0	2	0	2
<i>Total</i>	275	294	315	884

Crimes by Type Jan to Mar 2011

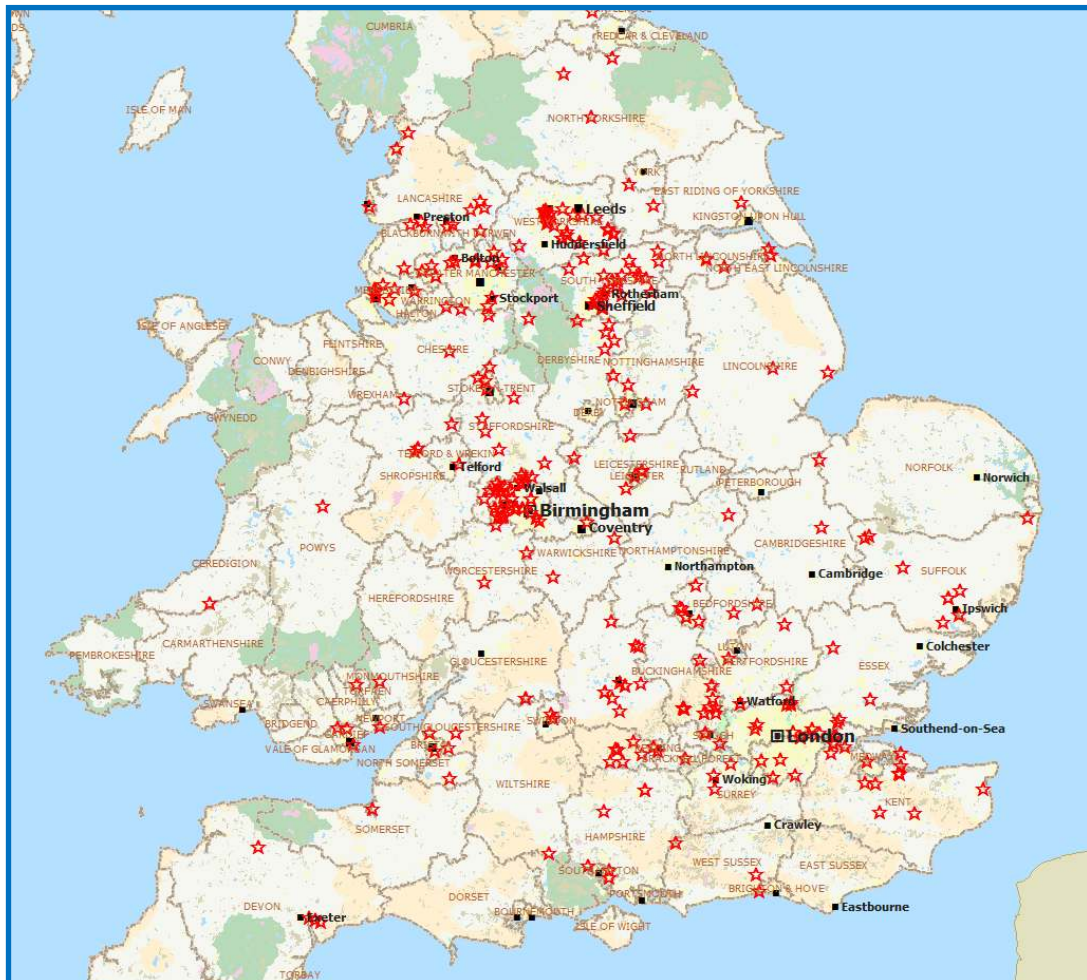


Road freight crime quarter comparison

Crime Type	Q1 - 2010	Q1 - 2011	No of incidents	% +/-
Theft of vehicle	396	349	-47	- 11.9
Theft from vehicle	244	448	+204	+ 83.2
Attempted - Theft	104	55	-49	- 47.1
Robbery	-	20	+20	n/a
Warehouse	6	3	-3	- 50
Attempted - Hijack	1	5	+4	+ 400
Hijack	5	2	-3	- 60
Deception	2	2	0	0
Totals	758	884	+126	
	% difference of		+ 16.6	

Note that the Robbery figures for Q1 2010 were included in the figures for Hijacks.

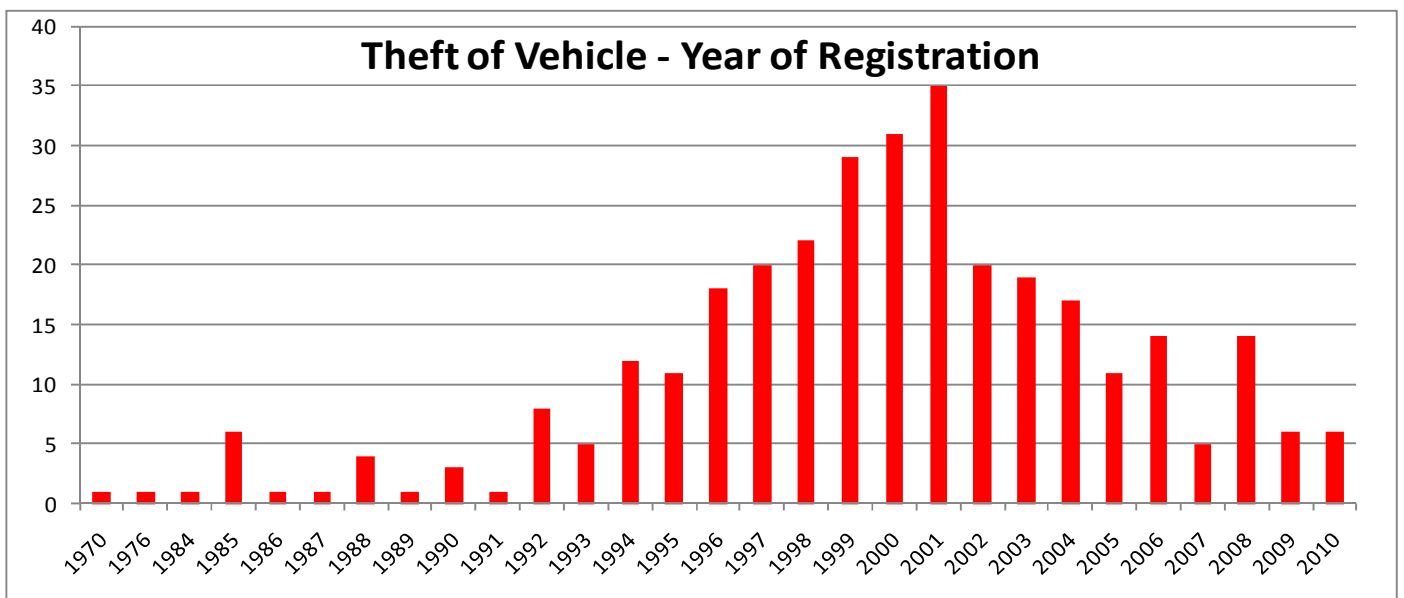
Theft of Motor Vehicles



Thefts by vehicle make & body type

Vehicle Make	Total
Iveco	82
Scania	46
Leyland DAF	43
DAF Trucks	42
MAN	29
Mercedes-Benz	28
Volvo	21
Not Recorded	18
Renault	13
Seddon Atkinson	6
Bedford	4
Ford	3
Isuzu	3
LDV	3
ERF	2
Foden	2
Mitsubishi	2
Hino	1
Universal	1
Grand Total	349

Body Type	Total	Most
Box Van	85	Iveco
Tractor Unit	43	Scania
Tipper	39	Iveco
Flat-bed	22	Iveco
Breakdown Truck	21	Iveco
Not Recorded	21	-
Drop-side	18	Iveco
Skip	16	Iveco
Goods Artic	15	Scania
Curtain sider	14	Scania
Livestock carrier	9	Leyland
Concrete mixer	8	DAF
Goods	8	Leyland
Special purpose	8	Mercedes
Insulated	5	
Tanker	4	
Truck	3	
Car transporter	2	
Low-loader	2	
Refuse	2	
Skeletal	2	
Luton	1	
Pantechnican	1	
Grand Total	349	



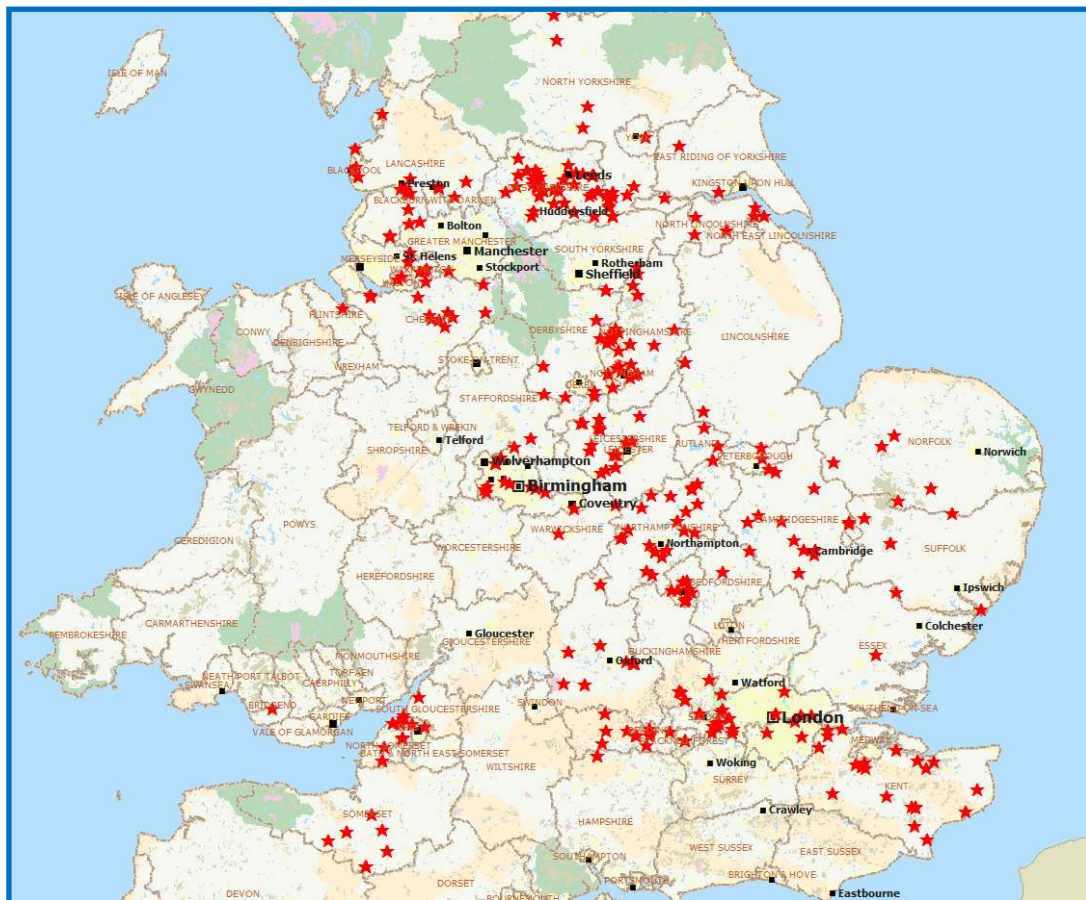
Although the theft of Large Goods Vehicles has reduced from last year, LGV theft numbers still remain very high. The low recovery rates, means damage to industry is exacerbated.

The most popular targeted makes, are, as last year: Iveco, Scania and Leyland DAF. Box vans, Tractor units and Tippers are the most commonly stolen body type.

We include a graph, this year, showing average age of vehicles stolen. Our location map also indicates that ‘hot spots’ for theft of vehicles are West Midlands and South Yorkshire.

TruckPol is continuing to work with all Forces in tackling this type of crime. We gather data and intelligence to tackle those organised crime groups believed involved.

Theft From Motor Vehicles



Property Classification	Jan	Feb	Mar	Quarter Total
G4 (Fuel)	87	93	102	282
I (Vehicle parts)	12	13	15	40
F (Cigarettes)	12	11	4	27
D (Household Goods)	7	4	12	23
A (Electronics/Electrical)	8	3	8	19
B (Clothes and Shoes)	5	9	3	17
G5 (metals)	4	6	7	17
G (Miscellaneous)	8	5	2	15
C (Food and Beverages)	4	4	6	14
E (Alcohol)	2	8	3	13
G1 (Building/Plant/Industrial)		5	4	9
H (Toiletries & Cosmetics)	4	4	1	9
A1 (Computers)	1	1	1	3
G3 (HAZMAT/Chemicals)			1	1

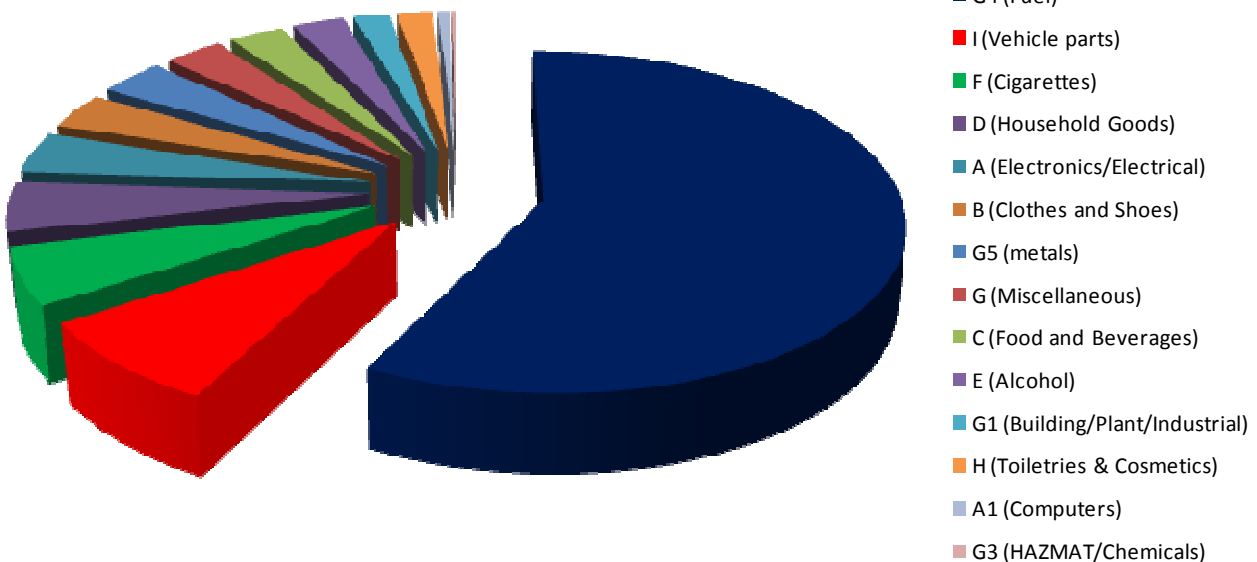
The most popular category of stolen goods in the past quarter has been a noticeable increase in fuel (diesel) theft. However, it should be noted that prior to January 2011 TruckPol were only recording crime details where over 1000 litres of fuel had been stolen. We now record all fuel thefts from Large Goods Vehicles no matter how small – which naturally shows a significant increase in the figures. We believe that overall national figures are likely to be even higher as not all Police forces are managing to pass through all fuel theft instances and details - suggesting that many hauliers are not reporting smaller items.

Vehicle Parts thefts are also increasing, with batteries and catalytic converters amongst the popular items.

Offenders continue to target vulnerable vehicles parked in isolated, unlit, lay-bys. Criminals often operate opportunistically, rather than being driven by load-specific robbery. They are prone to steal anything they can easily get their hands on.

Data shows that there is an increase in this crime compared to the same period in 2010, with the proviso that TruckPol is now recording all fuel thefts.

Crime by Property Classification Jan to Mar 2011



Incidents by Police Area

Force	Jan	Feb	Mar	Quarter Total
Thames Valley	57	43	29	129
West Yorkshire	28	32	47	107
West Midlands	17	17	19	53
Kent	10	13	22	45
Metropolitan	4	28	11	43
Northamptonshire	13	15	15	43
Nottinghamshire	18	11	14	43
Lancashire	7	13	18	38
South Yorkshire	15	13	9	37
Leicestershire	5	16	13	34
Avon & Somerset	14	7	12	33
Cambridgeshire	5	10	15	30

Police Forces who submitted less than 20 reports to TruckPol this quarter are not shown.

Hotspot Postcodes

Postcodes	Location	Att. Theft	Robbery	Theft from Vehicle	Theft of Vehicle	Grand Total
WF	Wakefield	5		24	15	44
RG	Reading	2		25	13	40
NG	Nottingham	2		31	5	38
NN	Northampton	6	2	24		32
S	Sheffield	2		7	23	32
BD	Bradford	1		17	11	29
DN	Doncaster	2		9	18	29
OX	Oxford	5	1	12	11	29
LE	Leicester	2		21	5	28

Emerging Trends

Fuel theft is noticeably on the increase with many Police areas reporting a general increase in crimes reported.

Offenders arrested in Derbyshire and London during the first quarter have been found to be using adapted vehicles fitted with pumps, hoses and bulk containers (example below) We are also aware of a recent arrest by Cambridgeshire Police where the offender had his own adapted equipment and carried 25litre containers to carry the fuel in.



TruckPol has given out the following crime prevention advice



- Park in a well lit and populated area.
- Park close to other lorries, fuel tank to fuel tank, making it more difficult for offenders to access them.
- Park with your fuel tank facing the road so passing traffic makes it less of a target.
- Consider using an anti siphoning device.
- Consider using CCTV.
- Ensure that you report any suspicious incidents / behaviour to the police.

Robbery Offences

Robbery offences are shown as increasing. In the first two months of the year, a noted rise in attacks on vehicles transporting easily disposable goods, such as cigarettes and alcohol indicate criminal targeting of cash-generating product. These loads are often in transit to small retail units.

The offenders in these cases often travel in groups of four or five individuals and will follow the victim vehicle for some miles before launching an attack. They will either attack the vehicle whilst the driver is carrying out a delivery, forcing entry to the rear of the vehicle, or will 'jump' the vehicle whilst the driver is still inside. The offenders are extremely persistent and will travel many miles in order to get the result they require. They may travel in convoy with other offenders and often use a white Transit-sized vehicle for ferrying contraband. Criminals are becoming increasingly violent towards drivers in order to get hold of the load.

We urge companies to ensure all their drivers are made aware of the problem and that they could potentially be being followed, or monitored. Instruct them to take note of the vehicle behind, and, if it has been persistent for some miles and they are suspicious – then they should drive to a safe, built-up area, and call their dispatcher/control room. If there is any degree of concern – a call to the Police is essential. Drivers should note down, where possible, registration numbers, circumstances and locations of suspicious vehicle activity and inform TruckPol.

We have made our colleagues nationally aware of the problem and all police forces should have a trigger plan in place to instigate should a Robbery be reported.

Theft / Diversion offences

Although we have few instances of this type of offence being reported to us, we believe these types of offences are on the increase and we urge all hauliers and drivers to familiarise themselves with this method of crime.

One example is an incident that occurred on the 15th February 2011, when at approximately 0900hrs a driver arrived at the delivery address of Access Storage on Thornton Road in Edmonton, but struggled to locate the exact yard he was to deliver to. Whilst looking for the address, he was approached by a man wearing a high-visibility jacket. The driver volunteered his documentation to the criminal, who then told the driver that he would "sort things out". The driver was instructed to "park up".

After some difficulties negotiating a one-way-system at Nobel Road and Kynock Road, the driver managed to park up and shortly afterwards was joined by the criminal in the high-visibility jacket. The criminal got into the vehicle and directed the driver to an empty premises along Kynoch Road, previously occupied by Safeway's Tyres.

The driver remained there for some 20 minutes before he was directed to drive down to Advent Way and told to stop next to a Self Storage Building. A few minutes later another man arrived and thereafter a white coloured 18 ton Mercedes lorry with tail lift arrived. Consequently three pallets of assorted perfumes were transhipped to it. After the Mercedes lorry had left, one man still remained with the driver and signed his documentation before leaving. The driver then departed. It was not until several hours later when the consignee made enquiries in relation to his delivery that the theft / deception was identified.

Property / Load database

We would like to remind everyone that TruckPol, when recording crime data, also ensures details of all stolen loads are recorded on our property database. We are able to check the database against property, later found as a result of warrants etc. We can send out alerts and details of property found in our weekly bulletin.

Various designer shoes recovered by Thames Valley Police earlier this year were circulated in the TruckPol bulletin, and after being identified by a loss adjuster, were found to be stolen property from West Yorkshire.

TruckPol Bulletin

The weekly TruckPol Bulletin is proving to be successful as it includes weekly updates and information in relation to current hotspots, trends, vehicles stolen etc. We encourage all Police Officers and our sponsors to utilise the bulletin as it is there to assist all in crime prevention.

TruckPol Crime prevention trailer

Our TruckPol Crime Prevention Trailer continues to be positively utilised and is currently booked up until August 2011. However, if any officer or sponsor would like to make use of it after that date then please contact TruckPol.

The trailer is supplied free of charge by TruckPol and we encourage our Police partners to make use of it.



Other TruckPol news

In March of this year, it was our sad duty to report upon the death of Deputy Chief Constable David Ainsworth, (AVCIS ACPO Lead) who was found dead at his home.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with David's family and friends at this difficult time.



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Please take advantage of the TruckPol website www.truckpol.com. We will continue to update the site with information regarding road freight crime and also have various links to crime prevention advice.

If you wish to submit any material please send us an email to truckpol@avcis.pnn.police.uk. Or use the online suspicious incident form found in the 'CONTACT US' section of the site.



It is essential that we continue to work together and communicate with all our partners in the police and industry. By working together we can make a difference in reducing freight crime.

Appendix A

Road Freight Crime is recorded in the following categories:

Hijack / Robbery	Occasions where force or violence is used or threatened against a driver and the vehicle is stolen with/without the load. Please note in future all these offences will be recorded as Robbery or attempt Robbery.
Attempted Hijack	Attempts to carry out the above
Theft of	Where an unattended vehicle and/or load/trailer are stolen
Theft from	Thefts of load from stationary vehicles e.g. Curtain slash or delivery vehicle left unlocked/unattended
Theft (other)	Thefts of trailers and other miscellaneous offences not within the above categories
Attempted Theft	Relates to attempts to steal the vehicle and/or load but where suspects are unable due to complete the theft
Deception	Relates to deceptions where drivers/companies are deceived into delivering elsewhere than to the intended destination. (Commonly referred to as 'Round the Corner')
Warehouse	Burglaries of commercial premises where LGV is used to facilitate offence

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