

## Media Note

23 August 2010

### **The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) releases statistics pinpointing the top twenty areas of the UK affected by ‘*Crash for Cash*’**

The IFB employs state of the art technology and utilises data pooled from across the insurance industry to identify criminal networks putting innocent motorists’ lives at risk with ‘*Crash for Cash*’ activities. Working with its customers to engage Police forces in joint investigations, the Bureau seeks to disrupt the actions of criminal gangs and contain the growth of ‘*Crash for Cash*’ on the UK’s roads.

Drawing on two years of insurance claims and policy data, the IFB has produced a league table of regional hotspots for ‘*Crash for Cash*’ activity. Aspects of live IFB and Police joint operations span all the hotspot locations identified. (A full break down of the top 20 hotspot locations is available in Editors Notes as Appendix A).

The IFB currently has 24 active joint Police operations, with a combined value of approximately £41million, spread across 15 Police forces. Each operation represents an average value of £1.7million and on average 253 claims. Since its formation in July 2006, the IFB has been instrumental in helping the Police make over 415 arrests of people who were trying to defraud insurers, resulting in over 89 convictions, for finalised criminal prosecutions.

Typically, in ‘*Crash for Cash*’ scams, fraudsters drive to busy road junctions and then perform unexpected, unnecessary and dangerous emergency stops designed to cause innocent members of the public to crash into them. Claims are made to the innocent motorist’s insurer, often including several accounts of fictitious injuries from members of the criminal gang. There is growing evidence to show that the proceeds from this type of fraud are used to fund other forms of serious crime including drug trafficking and gun running.

**-ENDS-**

**The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) releases statistics pinpointing the top twenty areas of the UK affected by ‘Crash for Cash’ Continued/....**

**Editors Notes:**

**Appendix A: Regional Hotspot League Table on ‘Crash for Cash’**

Hotspot	Hotspot position March 2009 (Q1)	Hotspot position March 2010 (Q1)	Hotspot position June 2010 (Q2)
Birmingham (B)	6	1	1
Liverpool (L)	4	2	2
Blackburn (BB)	2	3	3
Manchester (M)	15	5	4
Leeds (LS)	18	9	5
London East (E)	13	6	6
Oldham (OL)	3	7	7
Bradford (BD)	1	14	8
London North (N)	17	4	9
Bolton (BL)	7	10	10
Sheffield (S)	-	-	11
Uxbridge (UB)	9	8	12
Nottingham (NG)	-	17	13
Warrington (WA)	-	-	14
Stockport (SK)	-	19	15
Harrow (HA)	14	12	16
Leicester (LE)	-	-	17
Chester (CH)	-	20	18
Enfield (EN)	19	15	19
Wakefield (WF)	-	11	20

The Insurance Fraud Bureau (IFB) launched on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2006 and was formed to provide a cost effective, tactical solution for the detection and prevention of organised, cross industry fraud, supporting the wider Association of British Insurers industry fraud strategy. The IFB leads or co-ordinates the industry response to the identification of criminal fraud networks and works closely with the Police and law enforcement agencies.

[www.insurancefraudbureau.org](http://www.insurancefraudbureau.org)    [twitter.com/theifb](https://twitter.com/theifb)

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