

# ALERT

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## CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE FOR TRADERS

FOLLOWING A SECURITY INCIDENT AT A RECENT TRADE EVENT IN **BIRMINGHAM**, MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE **EXTRA VIGILANT** WHEN ATTENDING TRADE SHOWS. THROUGHOUT 2023, THE POLICE AND SAFERGEMS HAVE SEEN AN INCREASE OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY ORGANISED GANGS FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

The majority of these offences have involved organised high-value retail distraction/sleight of hand thefts. However, recently travelling sales representatives have also been targeted by organised South American gangs using **tyre slashing tactics** to distract and steal from sales representatives at locations in **London and Hampshire**.

### MEMBERS WHO ARE ATTENDING FORTHCOMING JEWELLERY SHOW ARE ADVISED:

- DO NOT OPENLY REVEAL YOUR MOVEMENTS OR THE MERCHANDISE YOU INTEND TO SHOWCASE AT EVENTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
- NEVER REVEAL DETAILS OF YOUR TRANSPORTATION PLANS, CONSIDER USING A HIRE CAR OR CHANGING VEHICLES PRIOR TO ATTENDING THE SHOW INSTEAD OF YOUR PERSONAL VEHICLE.
- REMAIN VIGILANT TO DISTRACTION TECHNIQUES WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING YOUR VEHICLE.
- ENSURE YOU ARRANGE SUITABLE PLANS FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING MERCHANDISE AND ENSURE IT IS KEPT AS SECURELY AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THE EVENT.
- IF YOU BECOME SUSPICIOUS THAT SOMEONE IS MONITORING OR FOLLOWING YOU ON FOOT OR IN A VEHICLE, NOTIFY THE POLICE AND IF YOU FEEL UNDER IMMEDIATE THREAT DIAL 999.
- WHILST SHOWING AT AN EVENT BE VERY VIGILANT OF DISTRACTION TECHNIQUES. CAREFULLY MONITOR THE HANDLING OF MERCHANDISE BY POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS. NEVER LEAVE CUSTOMERS UNATTENDED OR SHOW THEM MULTIPLE ITEMS AT ONE TIME.
- SLEIGHT OF HAND/DISTRACTION THEFT PREVENTION ADVICE CAN BE FOUND VIA THE SAFERGEMS WEBSITE: [HTTPS://WWW.BSIA.CO.UK/SAFERGEMS/](https://www.bsia.co.uk/safergems/)

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The National  
Association  
of Jewellers

01905 342051  
intel@safergems.org.uk  
www.safergems.org.uk

