



3 December 2020

Forecourt Crime Index jumps 41% in Q3 2020

Incidents of forecourt crime increased by 41% during the third quarter of 2020 according to the latest Forecourt Crime Index from BOSS – the British Oil Security Syndicate. The period covered the three months following the easing on the spring lockdown restrictions and saw the BOSS Index reach 145 (102: Q2 2020 - revised).

The BOSS Forecourt Crime Index is based on No Means of Payment (NMoP) incident reports that are made to BOSS Payment Watch, the loss recovery service. As the economy recovered during Q3 drivers returned to the roads and the total number of forecourt crime incidents increased by 41%, after incidents halved during Q2. However the Q3 Index in 2020 is still 15% lower than at the same period in 2019.

The average number of incidents per site rose by 42% to 10.3 (7.3 in Q2 2020). While the average litres of fuel taken per incident eased 0.4%, slightly down on the previous quarter. However as the price of fuel increased the average cost per incident in Q3 increased by 3.9% to £55.21. The average fuel price during Q3 2020 was 4.4% higher at 116.6ppl (111.7ppl: Q2 2020).

Kevin Eastwood, BOSS executive director, said: “Forecourt crime rose steeply as soon as the economy began to recover in the summer. Reports are showing that motorists involved in incidents are increasingly claiming to have No Means of Payment, with fewer reports of driving off from the pump without entering a store.

“During the second lockdown period Drive Off incidents have again fallen, this time by around one third, while the volume of NMoP show no sign of decreasing. The use of cloned plates, while still very low, has seen an upward trend.

“Again we’d strongly recommend that forecourt staff remain vigilant and on the lookout for suspicious behaviour.”

Forecourt crime reduction guides that help forecourt retailers to reduce incidents and keep forecourts safe places to work and shop are available from BOSS. A free copy of the BOSS Drive-Off Prevention guide can be downloaded from the BOSS website at <https://bossuk.org/guidance>

-ENDS-

EDITORS' NOTES

The British Oil Security Syndicate (BOSS) is a not-for-profit independent trade organisation campaigning to reduce forecourt crime. Formed in 1991 by the oil industry, membership is available to all UK fuel retailers and oil companies. BOSS is supported by the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU); the Financial Fraud Action UK (FFA UK); the National Police Chiefs' Council (formerly ACPO); the Scottish Business Resilience Centre (SBRC); the Scottish Grocers Federation (SGF); and the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association (UKPIA).

The BOSS Forecourt Crime Index is based on No Means of Payment (NMoP) incident reports that are made to BOSS as part of its BOSS Payment Watch scheme. The index was established at 100 in Q2 2015.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

Adrian Marsh on 01926 420660/07764 300313 or e-mail ajmarsh@campbellmarsh.com