



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service Briefing Note

Paper 000/00

9 December 2015

NIAR 000-00

**Suzie Cave**

# Scrap Metal Dealers Bill Supplementary Paper.

## 1 Introduction

The following paper should be read in conjunction with Bill Paper **Scrap Metal Dealers Bill** (NIAR 129-15). This provides supplementary information to section 2.3.1 of the Bill Paper in relation to interventions, both legislative and non-legislative, used in England and Wales to target metal theft.

## 2 Interventions in England and Wales

The following section expands upon, and provides more clarity on, the point made in section 2.3.1 in relation to the impact of the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 in England and Wales (the Act). Figure 2 of the Bill Paper shows a marked reduction in the number of metal thefts in England and Wales from 2012 to 2013, yet the Act itself only came into force from 2013. However, this may be explained by the fact that a number of non-legislative interventions had been used from 2012 before the Act came into force. The Home Office suggests that the combination of these interventions, and the subsequent introduction of the Act, may be linked to the reduction in metal thefts from 2012 to 2013.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Home Office (February 2015) [An evaluation of government/law enforcement interventions aimed at reducing metal theft](#) p.3

Expanding upon the information provided in the Bill Paper, the non- legislative interventions used before the Act included Operation Tornado. This required all participating scrap metal dealers in England and Wales to request identification from every cash sale. An initial pilot was launched in the north-east of England in January 2012 and rolled out across England and Wales until September of that year. This was followed by a ban on cash trading by scrap metal yards from December 2012, and then the Scrap Metal Dealers Act from October 2013<sup>2</sup>.

***These interventions may be of interest to Members as further examples of non-legislative measures, as well as Northern Ireland's voluntary code of practice. Members may wish for more information on these interventions in the form of a research request.***

---

<sup>2</sup> Home Office (February 2015) [An evaluation of government/law enforcement interventions aimed at reducing metal theft](#) p.3