

MOPEDS

& THEFT

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Who do people associate mopeds with? Teenage boys? Teenage girls? Or just people who want to get to work or travel quickly? It is in fact all of these, but the main one to focus on is boys and very few girls! I'm not targeting all boys but a handful of them.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THIS SCENARIO/QUESTION?

You've saved up for a very long time, doing overtime and even going in on days you don't have to. You count your money and think you've got enough, and you do what you've wanted for a long time; take lessons in learning how to ride a moped. You take the long hard lessons and you take the test and you've passed. You then go back to look at your money and think you have just enough to buy the moped you've seen in for example, J&S. You take it out with you whenever you want to go

anywhere. One day, you come back from work, put all locks on the bike and you are very tired by this point as it was a long shift. The next morning you go to get on your bike when it has gone and there is nothing left apart from the broken locks. Someone has stolen your bike! You report it stolen, the police then ask you for insurance etc, you give the details they need and they start the search. In the end they find your bike burnt and dumped far away. How do you feel? Not too

WHY DO PEOPLE STEAL?

- to get what they cannot have or afford
- to be nasty to someone they may not like
- because they like being nasty to other people
- because they were influenced by friends
- they think it's fun or clever

MOPED THEFT STATISTICS

In 2000 - 2001, 3,642 mopeds were stolen. That's an 15% increase on moped theft and it is still rising.

JOYRIDING WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!

It puts other people in danger as well as the person/people joyriding. Children, adults and the elderly could be badly hurt by these criminal's stupid

INTERVIEW WITH A 17 YEAR OLD WHO LIVES IN KINGSTON AND OWNS A MOPED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MOSTLY TARGETED FOR THEFT BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BOROUGH?

Scooters, motorbikes, cars, push bikes and mobile phones.

WHY DO YOU THINK THESE ARE TARGETED?

They are or can be quick and easy to get and sold on fairly easily.

WHAT PROBLEMS ARE CAUSED BY THESE THEFTS?

Motor vehicle thefts, scooters etc, boost insurance, making it virtually impossible to get insurance on a car or bike etc. I keep getting stopped by the police checking I have insurance and checking the ped over which is annoying. Push bikes are similar. With mobile phone theft, people get hurt and taking a mobile is like taking someones privacy and memories etc.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY THEFTS WITH ANY OF YOUR VEHICLES OR PAST VEHICLES?

NO NEVER!!! I hopefully never will. Every vehicle I own is bolted to the floor and alarmed to high heaven.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO YOUNGSTERS WHO WERE THINKING ABOUT STEALING?

DON'T! It's not big and it's not clever. It can also cause a lot of long term damage such as when you are applying for a job and you are filling out the job application, what do you say when you are asked about your criminal convictions? What do you say if asked about this in your interview? It's just not worth it.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT MOPEDS, MOPED THEFT AND HOW IT AFFECTS OUR LIVES.