

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE UWI COMMUNITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

SECURITY ADVISORY

Upsurge in Stolen Motor Vehicles

Dear Members of the UWI Mona Community,

An analysis of the trend in motor vehicle theft was conducted in collaboration with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and it has shown that there is a general increase in motor vehicle theft throughout the Kingston Metropolitan Area and in Portmore. Persons working or visiting the University Campus and the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) have been victims of motor vehicle theft over the past six (6) months.

Further analysis of the data revealed that particular make and model motor vehicles are targeted and are at extremely high risk of being stolen while parked.

Vehicles at high risk are:

- Toyota Probox
- Toyota Axio
- Toyota Wish
- Toyota Fielder
- Nissan AD Wagon
- Honda Fit
- Honda Stream

The vulnerability of these vehicles lies in their starting mechanism especially those manufactured before 2018. These vehicles are usually key started and they are not fitted with microchips. The thieves usually watch the drivers of these vehicles and as soon they are out of view of their vehicle, they smash any of the door windows to gain access to the inside of the vehicle where they quickly “hotwire” the starter and steal the vehicle within seconds.

While security does a profile of these vehicles and tries to track them while on Campus, the sheer size of the Campus and the numerous parking locations make it difficult to keep all the vehicles safe. Owners and drivers have a responsibility to install safety devices on their vehicles.

How to prevent theft of your vehicle

If you own or drive a key start vehicle, especially if the key is not programmed, to lessen the chance of it being stolen while parked, you should use one or a combination of the methods below:

1. **Install a "Kill Switch"** on your motor vehicle, it is designed to shut off the engine if it is not turned off while the car is in motion.
2. **Install an alarm system.** The alarm will go off if the window is broken or someone is tampering with the locks.
3. **Use a steering wheel club to lock your steering wheel,** thieves prefer easy targets so they may move on when they see an additional obstacle.
4. **Install a wheel to pedal lock** – one device can lock both.
5. **Install a vehicle tracker** - this will allow the security entities to track and recover the vehicle before it is disposed of.

Remember your own safety and security begins with you.

Director of Security