

## **APPENDIX – CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR**

### **WYTSS - BUSINESS GROWTH AND REGULATION TEAM**

#### **Who are we?**

West Yorkshire Trading Standards Business Growth and Regulation team has responsibility for the enforcement of consumer protection legislation relating to product safety, under age sales and the second hand car trade.

The team operates a Motor Trade Partnership scheme to assist and guide consumers to a reputable trader for a new or second hand car purchase. In addition, we have an investigative function, undertaking inquiries into illegal trading practices of the second hand car trade. The team operates an intelligence and complaint led model and seeks to tackle those car traders causing most harm in the community.

#### **What do we do?**

The team review complaints and intelligence relating to the car trade in West Yorkshire, a hot spot for all aspects of the trade including; second hand car sales; the repair industry; the scrap metal trade and also the reworking of insurance write offs.

Key Objectives of the team include:

- Identifying and investigating illegal trading practices in the car trade
- Undertaking regional and local project work relating to compliance within the sector
- Promoting the Motor Trade Partnership for consumers within West Yorkshire
- Using the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to confiscate assets from offenders

#### **What does the role of Criminal Investigator (BGR Team) involve?**

The overall purpose of the role is:

- To lead the car trade focussed enforcement activities of the BGR team.
- To gather and develop evidence and intelligence in accordance with Criminal Procedure & Investigation Act, in order to investigate and disrupt malpractice within the sector
- To conduct investigations into allegations of fraud, unfair trading and money laundering leading to the prosecution of offenders at court, the seizure of assets and recovery of any losses suffered by victims of crime
- To conduct recorded suspect interviews under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
- To obtain victim and witness statements, applying the principles of Achieving Best Evidence
- To minimise by means of effective enforcement activity, in conjunction with partner agencies, both the financial harm and road safety risk caused by noncompliance within the motor trade sector