

# “ PPP ”

## People for Proper Policing in North Wales

### **Businesses complain that crime is costing them £12billion a year and The Home Office doesn't care! Daily Mail 9th April 2008**

High price: Crime, including shoplifting, is costing UK businesses £12billion a year. Crime is costing businesses a fifth more than it did four years ago - £12.6billion a year, a survey has shown.

**The increase coincides with the introduction of controversial on-the-spot fines for offences such as shoplifting, criminal damage and graffiti.**

The British Chambers of Commerce said the annual cost of the crimes equated to one-sixth of that for all offences committed in the UK. And businesses said it appeared the Home Office "doesn't care" about their plight.

They also accused police of "fundamental flaws" in the way the crimes are handled. Criminal damage and graffiti are now **punished by fixed penalty notice** as are some cases of shoplifting. It means offenders escape court, receiving a fine of £80 or less instead.

Business leaders are also angry that the Government's **British Crime Survey does not even gather statistics on crimes committed against businesses.** The BCC's survey of 3,900 businesses found almost **two-thirds had been victims of crime in the past year.** One in five had been hit by vandalism and graffiti and a similar proportion had been burgled.

**The PPP comments .... We published an article about the BCS some time ago as the Home Secretary at that particular time was claiming that violent crime was going down. On studying the BCS we found that the Survey didn't include crimes against children or murder (because the deceased victim couldn't be interviewed!!)**

**Now we find another major category of crime is omitted WHY?. We will leave our small business leaders to ask WHY and insist on a change.**

**We also reported some time ago and again this week that Brunstrom is the leader and prime mover AND avid supporter of the computerised fixed penalty POINTS system.**