

Sportsman's Association Newsletter July 2017

Written by Mike Wells

Smartwater Smart move??

Smartwater charge a small monthly subscription fee that covers all the costs should your property be lost or stolen then recovered, including forensic analysis at our laboratories, the preparation of witness statements by our scientists and, even, attending Court on your behalf to provide expert testimony, if your ownership is disputed.

Suitable for the marking of all manner of assets including personal possessions (such as jewellery, laptops, sports equipment, etc...), business assets, vehicles and boats, SmartWater 'Dab-it-On™' traceable solution is as robust as it is versatile.

Once applied it is almost impossible to remove and can only be seen under UV light. Forensic analysis provides conclusive proof of ownership.

I used to mark car radios and power tools with a similar product, motorcycle dealers use microdots to mark bikes that show up under ultra violet light.

I would challenge their claim "virtually unremoveable", I could remove it with my automotive background

Firearm's owners hopping mad

I was inundated with phone calls and emails from Sportsman's members as 30,000 in the Metropolitan received letters from Smartwater asking them to participate in a new MET initiative and mark their firearms' with a kit costing £8.95. ALL legally held firearms are marked with a serial number in several places.

One of our members ranted that he had gone to great lengths to hide the fact he was a gun owner, incensed that due to the police everyone at his Doctors surgery was aware he is a gun owner. Now Smartwater had his name and address and that he was one of 30,000 people who kept guns at home.

Data Protection

As I understand it, your personal details cannot be shared with a third party without your consent, whether it be information held by A Bank, Doctors surgery, Telephone Company, Police, Inland Revenue etc. So why were Smartwater given 30,000 names and addresses on London FAC holders?

BASC have written to Cressida Dick the MET Commissioner for an explanation, as yet no reply. I wrote to London Firearms licencing and did receive a two page reply, stating that Smartwater had been vetted and promised to destroy the data after they sent out the mailshots. An employee of Smartwater has posted on the Internet that he took a copy on a memory stick.

Here is part of the MET reply:

It would have been impractical for the Firearms Enquiry Team to contact our certificate holders on an individual basis. Hence, to facilitate this initiative, we employed the services of an external print and mailing specialist – Corporate Document Services (CDS). CDS are contracted under a Crown Procurement Framework to deliver services on behalf of public sector institutions, including the MPS. CDS appropriately sub-contracted some of the work required to another company called Yes Direct Mail (YDM).

We take our responsibility for the protection of your data very seriously. We are writing to reassure you CDS and YDM are registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), hold various security accreditations and are subject to the Data Protection Act. We can also confirm that any personal data provided was limited to names and addresses only, and that once the leaflets were printed, CDS and YDM deleted this data in line with their policies and obligations under the Data Protection Act. Any returned mail is also being destroyed on receipt with no electronic records being maintained by these companies.

You may recall that Olympic shotgun champion George Digweed was raided by four men with pick axe handles as he watched TV with his wife. George was badly beaten and the thieves took shotguns and trophies. George is a celebrity so to hide that fact and his address is difficult. The MET have made it dead easy for a villain to identify household that have guns and to target those owners to steal guns and ammunition.

You could not make this up...

Some years ago, firearms licencing manager in North Yorkshire wrote to all his certificate holders, I was inundated with phone calls, asking, "could this be right".

His letter began; Burglars are very clever people, they know all the "hidey holes" in your house. So, when you go on holiday do not hide the keys to your gunsafe, give them to your next door neighbour!

How could anyone in firearms licencing make such a mistake?

I telephoned him to advise him of his blunder. He replied that he did not know what to do. I advised him to write another letter stating please disregard the content of my last letter, maybe take the keys on holiday with you or use a safety deposit box at a Bank.

Who pays the Bill?

The smartwater mailshot, postage envelope and the printed matter must have cost a conservative £2.00 so that equates to £60,000. Then the meetings to hatch this initiative of the MET getting in to bed with Smartwater, who are plying their trade selling microdot kits for £8.95. This matter has not been explained perhaps Commissioner Dick will elaborate

Expanding Ammunition

Ammunition which expands on impact This reverts to Section 1 and is a major success. This will be hugely beneficial to Sportsman's members who stalk deer or shoot vermin. BSSC has been campaigning for this since 1997 when expanding ammunition went into the prohibited category. It came up on the Agenda every month finally after 20 years we have got it changed to Section 1.

