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## Lexus Models Overtake Range Rovers as Thieves' Favourite Targets, New DVLA Figures Show

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Motorists across the UK have been urged to remain vigilant as fresh figures from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) reveal a notable shift in vehicle theft trends. Lexus cars have now overtaken Range Rovers as the most targeted brand by criminals, raising concerns among owners of the luxury Japanese marque.

According to newly released DVLA data based on 2024 theft reports, more than 61,000 vehicles were stolen across the country last year. While the Ford Fiesta continues to lead in overall theft numbers, this is largely attributed to its sheer volume on the roads. In contrast, though fewer in circulation, Lexus models now face a significantly higher theft rate than their numbers.

The Lexus ES 300 has emerged as the most at-risk vehicle, with one in every 30 registered models reportedly stolen. This leads to a worrying trend among Lexus cars, with the RX 450, LC 500, UX 250, and NX 300 appearing on the top ten list of vehicles most frequently taken by criminals. This trend marks a clear departure from previous years, when Range Rovers from Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) held the top spot in theft statistics.

In response to the concerning figures, Toyota, which owns Lexus, has highlighted its ongoing investment in vehicle security technology. The company noted that it has spent millions to enhance anti-theft measures for its customers. "Toyota GB has invested millions of pounds in a variety of security solutions. Our anti-theft measures form part of a nationwide customer care offering," a spokesperson said.

To further support affected owners, Toyota introduced a complimentary Tracker vehicle location service for select Lexus customers, an initiative reportedly costing over £10 million. The company claims this measure has already proven effective, achieving a recovery rate of 96 percent. "We have subsequently rolled out Tracker installation as an option for buyers of certain models," Toyota added.

The DVLA's latest update on stolen vehicles not only illuminates the increasing risk faced by Lexus drivers but also hints at improvements in theft prevention among other luxury brands. JLR, which previously dominated car crime figures, appears to have made significant strides in securing its models.

Industry experts have pointed to a competitive criminal market for high-end cars, especially overseas. Clive Wain, head of police liaison at Tracker, a company that works closely with law enforcement to recover stolen vehicles, acknowledged the growing threat while also recognising the efforts of manufacturers. He said: "Lexus is making considerable efforts to protect its customers' cars, but JLR suffered a rise in thefts sooner than it and so has had more time to react and develop solutions."

However, Wain warned that the battle is far from over. “There is a thriving market overseas for Lexus, JLR, and other premium vehicles, and we recover many at docksides,” he said, underscoring the challenge posed by international crime networks.

This new data serves as a stark reminder for owners of high-end vehicles to remain cautious and consider additional layers of security. While manufacturers continue upgrading their technology and implementing deterrents, the high demand for luxury cars in illegal markets ensures that thieves constantly seek new opportunities.