



Over 25 years of fighting crime An introduction to the charity Crimestoppers

The Independent charity Crimestoppers has been fighting crime since the organisation was launched in 1988.

Lord Ashcroft, KCMG, formed the charity following the murder of Metropolitan Police Officer, Keith Blakelock, during the Tottenham riots in October 1985.

The purpose of launching the charity was to encourage members of the public with information on criminal activity to come forward anonymously, without the fear of their identity being revealed, without having to give a statement to police and without having to go to court.

Since its launch, Crimestoppers UK has gone from strength-to-strength, taking over 1.3 million phone calls, which has led to over 120,000 arrests, £125 million of goods being recovered and £292 million of drugs being seized.

Crimestoppers works closely with police forces across the UK and law enforcement organisations including the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Our independence from the police and law enforcement is what makes us unique, which is why so many people contact us with information anonymously.

It is our work within local communities that really makes Crimestoppers successful. Crimestoppers has employees spread throughout the UK who engage with local people to find out about the crimes and issues affecting their community. This way, we can focus our efforts on those crimes and attempt to create a safer environment for the local community to live in.

Our staff are supported by a network of volunteers throughout the UK. These volunteers come from varying backgrounds such as media, businesses or local government, bringing relevant skills to the table that aids Crimestoppers' work in their area.

Passing on information about crime became easier in March 2012 when Crimestoppers launched a mini mobile version of its website and its youth service website, Fearless.org.

Fearless is aimed at 11-16 year olds and aims to educate and inform youngsters about crime and encourage them to pass on information anonymously.

In addition to educating youngsters on crime and working with local communities, locating UK fugitives through campaigns alongside other crime agencies is also something Crimestoppers has been at the forefront of over the last seven years.

Operation Captura was launched in Spain in 2006 to locate wanted individuals believed to be hiding in the Costas for serious crimes committed in the UK. The campaign, in which Crimestoppers works closely with SOCA and the Spanish authorities, has seen tremendous results, with 49 out of 65 wanted individuals located and arrested**. A similar campaign run in Amsterdam has seen 12 wanted criminals appealed for - with five of them arrested**.

Crimestoppers expanded its fugitive campaigns in September 2012 after launching a third campaign, this time in Cyprus.

The campaign appealed for information from local residents and the ex-patriot community to help locate nine individuals wanted for crimes including sexual offences, fraud and drug offences.

Within 48 hours of the launch, Paul Lockwood, 41, from Oldham, was located and arrested, while a few weeks later, couple Wayne Smith and Julie Skelding were also brought back to the UK.

If you would like to pass on information about crime anonymously you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or through the charity's secure online form at www.crimestoppers-uk.org. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out a volunteer enquiry form <http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/support-us/volunteering/become-a-volunteer>

** As of March 2013.

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