

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## MLA leads the way in locksmith accreditation

The MLA is once again forging ahead in the accreditation of locksmiths by playing a lead role in the Vehicle Security Data Group (VSDG), managing the approval route for locksmiths to become accredited for access to security data from vehicle manufacturers and trusted third party data holding companies.

A Pilot project has been initiated in the UK involving two major manufacturers, to look into the practicalities of getting locksmiths accredited and the security data to them, in order for them in turn to assist stranded motorists.

In order for locksmiths to be entered on the Accredited Locksmiths Database for this pilot project, the main steps involve undertaking a Criminal Record Bureau check, successfully passing an autolocksmithing exam, as well as the signing up to a strict code of practice which also stipulates insurance requirements.

Richard Childs, independent Chairman of the VSDG said *“The work of the VSDG is really important to car owners. Not only could the work lead to it being easier for those who have problems with their car’s security systems to gain access, but the way that the MLA is planning to regulate the process will provide some real and essential guarantees that the security of the car is not compromised in the process. Naturally, car manufactures are eager to preserve the integrity of car security, but the work of the MLA and the VSDG balances this quite proper desire with the need to help motorists immediately when they have a problem with the security systems of their car”*.

Steffan George, director of Business Development for the MLA said *“The MLA firmly believe that when choosing to use a locksmith, the end customer has the right to expect them to be appropriately vetted. This is as true for the general public as it is for the vehicle manufacturers who need to know they can trust the personnel they are providing this sensitive data to”*.

For more information on this scheme please contact either Steffan George at the MLA or Michael Hinchliffe, the secretary of the VSDG.

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## Notes to Editors

### **About the MLA**

The Master Locksmiths Association is a non-profit making body; established to set and promote standards of conduct, practice and materials within the locksmithing industry. It encourages its members to further their knowledge through ongoing education, regional meetings, seminars, its membership magazine Keyways and its website. Standards of entry to the MLA are rigorous and high (including CRB checks and inspections), and its ethos of "Skill and Integrity" exists to ensure that the public, government and industry receive the appropriate service and advice on security matters provided by its members. Created in 1958, the MLA became a limited company in 1986 and now the membership, currently standing at over 1400, is world-wide. The MLA is now the leading trade association for the locksmithing industry and is recognised as the authoritative body for locksmithing by the Police, the Home Office, the British Standards Institute, Association of British Insurers (ABI) and Building Research Establishment (BRE) amongst others. The MLA also offers a full suite of training courses to the trade, held at their purpose built training facility at their headquarters in Daventry. Sold Secure, the leading independent security test and validation laboratory is a wholly owned subsidiary of the MLA.

### **About The VSDG**

The Vehicle Security Data Group (VSDG) was established in 2005 to look at the issues surrounding the supply of vehicle security data, held by the vehicle manufacturers, to trusted third parties including auto-locksmiths, using secure protocols. The VSDG includes representatives from the auto locksmiths, Police, Governmental Departments, trusted third parties, trade associations including the Auto Locksmiths Association (ALA) and Master Locksmiths Association (MLA), original equipment and aftermarket manufacturers, recovery agencies and insurers working together under the auspices of an independent Chairman.

For further information on the VSDG, please contact:

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