

The Great Car Crash Con

By **Alexander Baron** - Feb 5, 2016



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One of the most bizarre and indeed one of the most dangerous financial scams to come to light in recent years is the cash for crash or crash for cash con. In case you have not heard of it, it involves people deliberately crashing cars to claim the insurance money. There are variations on this scam, but it can be extremely dangerous when unsuspecting members of the public are targeted. This [BBC documentary](#) focuses on a fairly big operation involving two extended families in Wales and a legal process that led to the conviction of no fewer than 83 people, 81 of them for conspiracy to defraud.

The scam began to unravel after a woman reported a routine assault and theft, a thug shoved her, stole her car keys, and drove off in her car. After receiving a tip off, uniformed police officers attended a garage where the vehicle was found, although it had been completely stripped. Detectives would find a large number of stolen vehicles at the premises, and some incriminating CCTV footage as well as a cryptic note.

In this programme, police officers relate how they trawled Facebook for incriminating images, how the gang duped insurance companies, and how one of its members even

roped his elderly grandmother into the scam. We hear also from two women – both victims – one of whom was accused in a civil claim of crashing her car in a car park causing damage and injury, even though it was parked at the time. She was called to court as a witness, and expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the trial.

Insurance companies have now thoroughly reviewed their security procedures, and the law has been strengthened; among other things, **referral fees have been banned** by the Government. These latter are a magnet for corrupt lawyers, who were not involved in this particular network, but have been for certain in others.

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