

The UKRPA is a trade association representing nineteen organisations within the utilities industry with a vested interest in the prevention, detection and investigation of electricity and gas theft.

Among the services provided by the UKRPA is an online and telephone fraud reporting line, allowing members of the public the opportunity to anonymously report suspected cases of theft. Last year, the UKRPA received over 3,000 fraud reports for investigation – growing year on year.

In 2015, the UKRPA carried out a survey of its membership to forecast, with greater accuracy than ever before, the value of identified stolen electricity and gas. Using the number of leads received by our members we were able to establish a good estimate for the value of energy theft across Great Britain:

- £440 million each year is the total estimate cost of identified stolen energy.
- This figure is split approximately 75% electricity and 25% gas.
- The total cost of energy theft is based on that which has been identified to date. The actual amount stolen each year is likely to be markedly higher.
- £110 million each year is estimated for illegally abstracted electricity connected to illegal drug production (cannabis cultivations). This represents around one-third of the total illegally abstracted electricity.
- £20 per annum is the estimated cost that dual fuel energy customers must bear as a result of energy theft.
- 150,000 energy theft investigations are undertaken by energy companies every year.
- Prosecution action for energy theft is taken against 1,500 individuals per year.
- Legislative action can mean five years imprisonment, or a fine of £2,000, plus costs.

To anonymously report a suspected incident of gas or electricity theft, visit www.ukrpa.co.uk.

Note:

The UKRPA carried out a 2014 survey of its members to ascertain the value of known energy theft. The responses received represented an estimated 50% of the total supply market portfolio, numbers were extrapolated to find an approximate total for the industry.

The calculation uses the actual number of leads handled by the suppliers, multiplied by the average value of energy stolen per find. This only accounts for the theft that is identified, and does not include unidentified theft, or system and resource costs associated with investigation of theft.

Fraud reports received in calendar year 2015 were 50% higher than the total recorded for 2014.