

Vauxhall Zafira spare wheel thefts

Vauxhall Zafira owners must fork out £30 for a lock if they want to hold on to their spare wheel.

The company charges for the device rather than fix the security flaw it's known about for more than two years. Thieves can easily bend open the spare wheel cage under the car.

Kevin Bacon found his spare wheel missing in August. His dealer in West Sussex told Kevin it replaces two or three stolen spares a week.

Kevin says: 'Vauxhall has not contacted owners to alert them to

this problem. Only after owners have replaced their spare at a cost of £100 has it offered to sell and fit a lock – a nice little earner.'

More than 90 Zafira drivers have vented their anger on www.sparewheeltheft.co.uk



Kevin Bacon

started in June by Russell Hughes, whose spare wheel was stolen.

'My local dealer said it sees three to four thefts a week,' says Russell. 'I asked Vauxhall how it explained the volume of thefts. I was told I was responsible for the security of my vehicle. It said to claim on my insurance, but the excess would exceed the cost of a wheel.'

Vauxhall says in its defence it 'made a decision not to supply the device automatically.'