

Chocolate thieves target UK supermarkets

Vocabulary Match

- criminals ● organized ● anti-theft ● trend ● shoplifting ● swipe ●
- take ● thieves ● safety box ● pattern ● stealing ● planned

Article

In the UK, chocolate is becoming a major target for thieves. To stop them, many supermarkets are now locking £2.60 chocolate bars in plastic anti-theft boxes. Customers must ask staff to open them, similar to how expensive alcohol is sold.

Experts say criminals are "stealing to order," meaning they swipe entire shelves of chocolate to sell to cafes or other shops. One store owner reported losing £250,000 in just one year! This trend isn't just about small shoplifting; it is linked to organized crime. Shopkeepers are now using AI cameras and half-empty shelves to protect their stock from these chocolate thieves.

Quiz

1. What is becoming a target for thieves in the UK?
2. How are supermarkets protecting chocolate bars?
3. What do experts say about how criminals are stealing?
4. How much did one store owner lose in a year?

Conversation

- A: Did you hear they're locking up chocolate now?
B: Yeah, I had to ask for help just to get a bar!
A: It feels like buying expensive wine.
B: I know, right? What's next, locked-up bread?
A: Maybe they'll have AI cameras watching our every move.
B: And counting how many calories we eat!

Discussion

1. What is your favorite chocolate bar and why?
2. Have you ever had something stolen from you? How did it feel?
3. If you had to wait for a staff member to unlock a £2 bar of chocolate, would you still buy it?
4. What other items do you think might need protection from thieves?