

PROTECT YOURSELF

Despite being able to offer our clients a very competitive quote we have lost a number of them to other companies for as little as 50 euros. When we point out the differences of the policies and especially the benefit of the protected no claims bonus that Liberty offer, nearly always we are told that it doesn't matter, the cheaper the better. I fail to understand this comment, whilst appreciating that under Spanish Law cars have to be insured, we need to also take into consideration, that there are other factors involved, for example accidents, theft, fire, breakdowns, in my considered opinion an essential part of the policy is the protected no claims bonus, if an accident happens, the amount you would be paying on renewal, would possibly be far higher, than the amount you have saved by opting for a cheaper policy.

Again when choosing a house insurance, be careful that you actually understand the coverage you are purchasing, no policy in the world will cover you for every eventuality and it is not an extended warranty, however there is a lot of misleading information on the market do not assume that simply because you are paying less and you are assured verbally that everything that you expect to be covered is covered.

A number of times during the last few years, I have written about UK registered cars. I understand from various reliable sources that the police are now targeting these vehicles, a joint task force within Spain will from now on be setting up regular static controls, along with the Guardia Civil, the National and Local Police, including helicopter support when required, in areas where there are many foreign residents.... The reason for this action being taken are the number of non Spanish registered cars, being driven illegally, for example those without current MOT or Road Tax, (please note a Spanish ITV is not valid on a UK registered vehicle) therefore can I suggest that if you are a resident (paying your taxes in Spain) you should seriously consider starting the process now to reregister your car. Legally if you are a tourist (non resident status) in Spain, then as long your car has a current UK MOT and road tax, then you can stay for a maximum of 185 days. It is also very advisable to carry in the car, your driving licence, proof of payment on your Insurance, your ITV or MOT certificate, road tax, the registration documents and your ITV sticker should be clearly displayed in the top right hand corner.

Remember that the police now have access to the MIB in the UK to enable them to check UK vehicles for proof of insurance and of courses the database in Spain for Spanish Registered cars.

I can assure you that it is not a pleasant experience being pulled over by the police, whether local police, Traffico or the Guardia Civil and they are not interested in excuses of any kind... it's an immediate fine.

Changing the subject but still talking about protecting yourself, I'd really like you to be careful when choosing your Financial Advisor./Company, to ensure that in Spain they are licensed and regulated by the Gibraltar Financial Services FSC, and the FSA, when registered with these authorities, all advisors will automatically carry indemnity insurance in case of mis selling and/or bad investments. The other point to watch very closely are the costs when transferring your pension fund to another fund, these differ enormously and can be quite a shock when receiving your final settlement.

Finally, if you are not sure where your pensions are invested or if they are giving you the maximum return our Associate Ian Whitby is available to offer you a full pension review, I can assure you he is fully regulated and authorised and can be contacted via our offices.