



Grafton Business News

January 2007 to April 2007

Welcome to our first 2007 Bulletin. I am happy to report that the Grafton Team have hit the ground running with a number of proactive and reactive investigations. We are slowly augmenting the operational team with some new team members, who joined us on the 16th April 2007. We continue to work with our colleagues from Surrey Constabulary, Thames Valley Police and HMRC. The expansion of the Unit will continue, subject to the availability of suitably trained and experienced officers.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Commander Sue AKERS who has taken over from Commander Cressida DICK, who was promoted to Deputy Assistant Commissioner. DAC DICK consistently supported Operation Grafton and we wish her well in her new post

Operation GRAFTON is now firmly established within the Serious Crime Directorate and we have extended our role as an intelligence unit to also encompass the investigation of crimes that fall within our remit, which is as follows:

“Any allegation where the value of property stolen, or attempted to be stolen, is in excess of £10,000, the commodity is air freight, and connected to Heathrow Airport”.

Under certain circumstances we will investigate crimes that fall outside the remit. We will still continue to facilitate the reporting and investigation of any crimes brought to our attention by our industry partners.

The Metropolitan Police in common with many Police Forces throughout the country has consolidated and centralised numerous communication centres throughout the organisation and created a smaller number of super "Call Centres". There have been a number of teething problems with the system, which has resulted in a number of reported crimes not being adequately resourced or dealt with. I am currently preparing a training package for Police Staff working at such centres, which I hope will address the types of crimes encountered by the Freight and Warehouse Industry, thereby ensuring a better service.

On the theme of reporting crime, I would like to make you all aware of the Metropolitan Police Online Crime Reporting system, which can be accessed through the Metropolitan Police Website at www.met.police.uk
The following is an extract from the relevant page, which explains the reporting system:

Metropolitan Police Online Crime Reporting

**Welcome to non-emergency crime and hate crime /
incident reporting**

**This form is only to be used for incidents in
the Greater London area
[List of UK police forces](#)**

In an emergency always dial 999

When to use this service

You can use this service to notify the Metropolitan Police of the following crimes committed within the Greater London Authority area.

- **Theft** - excluding:
 - Robbery (where you or the person you are reporting for was subjected to violence or the threat of violence).
 - Burglary (a building has been broken into).
- **Criminal damage**
- **Theft from a motor vehicle**
- **Criminal damage to a motor vehicle**
- **Hate crimes and hate incidents**

For any other type of non-emergency incident please call your [local police station](#) to report. If you are unable to call your local police station, then you may visit the station during its opening hours.

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that you provide full details of how we can contact you. Especially important is a contact telephone number and a time when you will be on that number. An investigator will contact you to discuss the contents of this report to update the investigation.

When not to use this service

- The police service is ready to help you, with trained call operators available 24 hours a day. It is important that you do not use this service to report any other crime or if the **crime is serious** (i.e involves vulnerable, elderly or young victims or it is of a violent or sexual nature)
- **The crime is happening now**
- **The offender is still there or nearby**
- **Someone saw the crime being committed**
- **Evidence has been left at the scene**

Notes to user

- Once your report is submitted your crime report will be forwarded to the police station covering the location of the crime and you will receive a unique online report reference number.
- Please check your answers before you submit, once you have sent the form you will not be able to go back and change any of your answers. Alternatively you may wish to print a copy of the form for your records.
- The Online Crime Reporting service requires cookies to be enabled in your browser
- Personal information (such as name and address) submitted to this website will only be used for policing purposes. This complies with the Data Protection Act 1998, details of which can be found at www.dpr.gov.uk.

I must stress that this service is not to be used in an emergency, instances concerning the loss of high value consignments or incidents that require an immediate response (Suspect present, loss of Forensic opportunities etc). If in doubt ring the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Call Centres in your area or if your company is located outside the MPS call the relevant Police Service for your area. Operation Grafton staff are also available between 0800 hrs and 1800hrs (Mon-Fri)

The development of the Grafton website is currently on hold due to potential developments in relation to AIMSS and other websites

As previously reported Operation GRAFTON has forged significant links with the French Gendarmerie OCLDI, a national unit with specific responsibility for cross border serious crime and Airport crime. This partnership has resulted in a written memorandum of understanding in relation to the exchange of intelligence. The OCLDI are very keen to tackle freight crime throughout France and assist UK investigations. They will also be liaising with TRUCKPOL.

AIMSS

Operation Grafton Crime and Partnership officers will be contacting all accredited sites at Heathrow over the following months to discuss Grafton related issues and offer advice. Superintendent Rupert HOLLIS from Heathrow is currently steering the progress and evolution of AIMSS and to that end he will be chairing a meeting on Friday 20/04/2007.

Scottish Business Crime Centre

DI WILLERTON and DS DEFREITAS attended the SBCC to give an Operation Grafton presentation. We would highly recommend the SBCC to companies operating in Scotland and suggest a visit to their website at www.sbcc.org.uk. The SBCC are running a number innovative and practical crime reduction initiatives and offer a whole range of support and advice.

192.COM

We were very pleased to receive an invitation from 192.com to attend their Prove-ID, Card-Not-Present Fraud Forum held at Chelsea Football Club on Wednesday 7th March 2007. Guest speakers included Nigel EVANS MP (Chairman of All Party Parliamentary Group on identity fraud) and Mark LUCRAFT QC. There was lively debate and discussion regarding emerging trends and issues. Mark LUCRAFT QC gave a presentation on the new Fraud Act, which was informative and enlightening. 192.com are currently hosting a free secure web based closed forum for Retail Security Managers/Personnel. The forum is by invitation only and would be of use to Courier and Freight Forwarders in combating fraud.

UcanVerify.com

Operation Grafton attended a presentation given by David DOUGLAS of UcanVerify.com Ltd. This company provides a web based fully automated verification system, which seeks to confirm an individual's identity and training details instantly. The verification is based on vetting that has been carried out either by an associate company or participating companies HR departments. The Company is currently canvassing the industry and piloting the system Nationally. UcanVerify.com Ltd has supplied their system to companies in the transport and warehouse sector.

KHAT

We are regularly receiving reports from courier and freight forwarders in relation to exports of dried Khat to the USA and Canada. PC Ian Nightingale from the Heathrow Cargo Unit, together with this unit has researched this issue thoroughly and legal advice, sought by Operation Grafton, strongly suggests that such exports render those concerned liable to prosecution under the Criminal Law Act 1977 (Criminal Conspiracies). Further advice is being sought and will be the subject of further Bulletins.

TAPA

The recent TAPA conference in Milan was a great success. Detective Inspector Paul DOUGLAS, formerly of Operation GRAFTON, gave a presentation on Counter Terrorism issues. One of the delegates raised a legitimate concern regarding perceived police inaction in relation to lorry diversion crimes in Camden. Operation Grafton have taken these concerns to the Borough Crime Manager at Camden and a review is underway.

Not Protectively Marked

ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS)

The AVCIS, which incorporates TRUCKPOL is based in Warwickshire and is currently recruiting experienced staff to provide a dynamic response Nationally to vehicle crime. We believe this is good news for the freight industry as a whole and anticipate some good results once they are established.



**AVCIS
NPIA
LEAMINGTON ROAD
RYTON ON DUNSMORE
WARWICKSHIRE
CV8 3EN
Tel: 02476 516 246
Tel2: 02476 826 123**

Operation Grafton Gold Strategic Group

This group comprising of Law Enforcement and Industry Partners/Organisations will be convening on Wednesday 25th April 2007 at New Scotland Yard to discuss Grafton issues.

Not Protectively Marked

Other business

There has been a marked decrease in crimes that fall within the GRAFTON remit. We are currently conducting a number of proactive operations, which for operational reasons cannot be discussed in this Bulletin.

Not everything within this or other bulletins necessarily falls directly within the Grafton terms of reference, but for varying reasons are considered relevant.

In many instances, to protect confidentiality the information released is brief. Where possible and if appropriate incidents will be expanded upon. It is intended that future bulletins may contain photographs of unidentified suspects currently sought in relation to unsolved crimes.

If you have any suggestions or wish to offer any assistance in this process please don't hesitate to contact members of the Grafton team on 0208 246 9972 or e-mail www.operation.grafton@met.police.uk

Crimes of Interest

GCI/006/2007

17/01/2007 a HGV carrying printer cartridges and being driven by foreign nationals attacked by three suspects, believed and attempted hijack. The offence took place in Feltham, Middlesex and the driver and mate escaped without harm.

GCI/020/2007

On 01/11/2007 three sprinter vans were hijacked and drivers kidnapped in Belgium. Operation Grafton are assisting Dutch Police with the investigation. A number of arrests have been made in Holland.

GCI/026/2007

On 12/04/2007 at 21.15 hours an employee of a freight forwarding company (AIMSS accredited) had left his vehicle parked at a BP Petrol station in Hounslow and entered the shop. On returning to his vehicle he was kidnapped. He was repeatedly threatened, assaulted and questioned about commodities held at his place of work and subsequently released. This matter is currently being investigated by Hounslow CID, with support from OP Grafton

GC/005/2007

On 01/04/2007 just after 19.30 hrs a suspect driving a white 7 1/2 tonne lorry bearing false plates visited a freight warehouse in the Hayes Middlesex area. The driver produced a fake ID to security and attempted to collect a consignment using a forged collection note. The suspect was unsuccessful and left empty handed. The incident was captured on CCTV and Operation Grafton are investigating

Suspicious Vehicles

Nothing to report

Yet again, we rely on your continued vigilance and support and ask that you report any suspicious activity to your local police and inform Operation GRAFTON.

This unit will follow up every report and ensure that appropriate action is taken. I must remind you that due to legal constraints we are not always able to give you specific feedback in relation to our enquiries. Be assured that we will exploit all opportunities to develop intelligence provided by you in relation to suspected criminal activity.

Arrests & Court

January

Four persons arrested by Grafton Officers in relation to Dishonestly Handling jewellery stolen in transit between Manchester Airport and Heathrow. A small proportion of the jewellery was recovered. Investigation continues.

March/April

A number individuals linked to Grafton Crimes arrested and charged with an attempted murder and possession of firearms. Thames Valley Officers conducted the arrests. A number of other suspects were convicted in relation to public order offences, receiving custodial sentences.

A warehouse worker employed by a freight forwarding company near Heathrow arrested and charged by Grafton Officers in relation to the theft of goods valued at £200,000. Another individual has been arrested in relation to handling offences and is currently on bail

April

A Nicholas GALLI a Transport Manager from Dagenham will be sentenced on Friday 20th April 2007 in relation to his participation in a drug smuggling ring. He used his position to facilitate an offence of concealing criminal property. One other defendant has been sentenced to 9 years imprisonment

General Issues...

- CCTV - The management of this vital intelligence / evidence is in some instances lacking. Please ensure that systems are working correctly with dates and times being correct. Ensure that tapes or discs are regularly changed and that a daily record is kept of any insertions or removals. Please ensure that all original material is retained. Ensure that vulnerable or high value consignments are placed in an area giving good coverage and that those areas are well lit. On the upside we have historically had some cracking footage of suspects engaged in criminality, which has significantly assisted identification and arrests
- Personal safety and security – A recent kidnap of a warehouse employee highlighted the need to be ever vigilant, avoid routines (Vary times and routes home and to work), and report suspicious activity in and around your place of work and home
- Note Presentation – Please verify, check and verify the provenance of collection notes/invoices. Check and verify collecting driver's identity. Secure and audit company documentation (Invoices/collection notes) otherwise they will be used against you... You have been warned
- Seals – Clean signatures mean nothing if your procedure for sealing and securing loads are lax. The integrity of the procedure will adversely impact on the outcome of police investigations. There have been instances of ratchet seals being incorrectly fixed to trailers rendering the consignments vulnerable to theft.
- Under Reporting - is still a problem if you have instances of theft or suspicious activity please report it to your local police and advise Grafton. Where appropriate we will liaise with the borough and assist with or take responsibility of the investigation.
- There have been many reported instances of organised criminal groups attempting to compromise drivers and warehouse personnel by making direct approaches and offering considerable cash rewards for details of high value loads. Any such approaches should be reported to OP GRAFTON who will deal with the information in the strictest confidence.
- There is still a high incidence of criminal gangs contacting customers and freight forwarders, intent on obtaining details of consignments and their movements. GRAFTON ADVICE: Adhere to company procedures, always verify the caller's details, if unsure **DO NOT DISCLOSE** and contact your company security department or police.

Operation Grafton 'Live'...

Operation Grafton are currently engaged in a number of operations, which for operational reasons must remain confidential.

One Year Ago..

January:

11/01/2006: 1280 P4 Processor Chips stolen between Hong Kong and LHR, worth £150,000.

02/01/2006: A Ram Raid offence in the Thames Valley Area where computer graphic cards valued at £250,000 were stolen.

25/01/2006: Robbery in the IVER area. A stolen 7.5 tonne truck was driven through a warehouse wall; the suspects broke into the vault and stole £96,000 of P4 processors.

February:

02/02/2006: Alarm cable cut on an industrial estate in Hayes.

05/02/2006: A Hole was cut in a wall of a warehouse and goods were then removed from a locked container.

07/02/2006: Hijack of van containing 900 mobile phones worth in excess of £120,000 in the Heathrow Area.

07/02/2006: Ram Raid in the Greenford Area, £11,000 Mobile Phones stolen.

09/02/2006: Attempted Robbery at warehouse in Feltham.

March:

01/03/2006: Robbery at warehouse in Colnbrook.

02/03/2006: Ram Raid at warehouse in Colnbrook,

03/03/2006: Attempted hijack of van carrying £210,000 of mobile phones.

24/03/2006: Deception at a bonded warehouse where £18,000 of carpet was stolen.

04/03/2006: Ram Raid in West Drayton.

05/03/2006: Two attempts to Ram Raid a High Security warehouse in Staines holding large sums of cash.

09/03/2006: Kidnapping of the owner of a mobile phone premises to gain entry.

17/03/2006: Ram Raid at Communications Company in Maidenhead.

27/03/2006: Aggravated Burglary at a Logistics Company in IVER.

28/03/2006: Hijack of van carrying £288,000 of CPU's on the A406.


29/03/2006: Attempted Ram Raid at Logistics Company in West Drayton, however, the suspects fail to gain access to the premises.


April


03/04/2006: One pallet of Sat. Nav. Systems, valued at £15,000, stolen while in transit.

25/04/2006: Hijack of Van carrying mobile phones in Hayes.

29/04/2006: Armed Robbery, where suspects wore Delivery Company uniforms and tied up staff.

 **METROPOLITAN POLICE** Working together for a safer London

 **AIMSS**
AIRFREIGHT INDUSTRY MINIMUM SECURITY STANDARDS (AIMSS)



Operation GRAFTON – SCD7 (10)
C/O The Serious Crime Directorate
New Scotland Yard
The Broadway, London, SW1

General enquiries +44 (0) 208 246 9972

Confidential Helplines...

Operation Grafton is always keen to hear from anyone who has information about crime taking place at or near Heathrow. You can call confidentially and you do not have to give your name. You may even be entitled to a reward. The office is staffed between 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday. Alternatively you can call Crimestoppers on the number below.

Operation GRAFTON are particularly interested in those persons who are providing information on consignments of freight, handling the proceeds of offences, or are in unlawful possession of firearms.
TEL – 0208-246-9972

Operation GRAFTON was formed in March 2003 in response to industry concerns about the level of organised, high-value crime being committed near Heathrow. The unit is responsible for tackling serious and organised crime affecting Heathrow Airport.

Close links are established with Thames Valley Police, Surrey Police and HM Revenue and Customs.

Operation GRAFTON communicates to approximately 8,000 companies and organisations worldwide, and is often called upon to provide expertise and assistance to law enforcement agencies.

Since it's inception, the unit has seen a decrease in serious crime in excess of 70 % and was a finalist in the 2005 Public Sector Team of The Year Awards.

Operation GRAFTON strives to reduce organised crime further, thereby making Heathrow a safer place.

If you have information about any crime, phone

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**
0800 555 111

- Your call is free
- You are not asked for your name
- You may receive a reward