

Not Protectively Marked



Grafton Business News

May 07 to August 07

This is the second bulletin from Operation Grafton this year and the team has gone from strength to strength. We have had a very successful four months with lots to report. The operational team is now fully established and has made a serious impact on Grafton Crime. Operation Grafton continues to liaise with our law enforcement and industry partners, which contributes significantly towards the continued success of the unit.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Detective Chief Superintendent David Zinzan, the new Commander of the Serious Organised Crime Group who is taking over from Commander Sharon Kerr. Commander Kerr is now running the MPS Intelligence Bureau but has always supported Operation Grafton and helped drive the unit to its operational status; we wish her all the best in her new post.

DS Jose Defreitas, Operation Grafton's Industry Liaison Officer, has been seconded to Leicestershire Police in Portugal to assist in the Madeline McCann case. During this time we will continue to service all requests from our industry partners; if you have any questions or requests for Jose please contact the office for assistance on 0208 246 9972.

Operation Grafton is now firmly established in the Specialist Crime Directorate and with its intelligence cell and operational team Grafton is able to fully investigate crime that falls within its 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.

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The MPS online reporting system http://www.met.police.uk/reporting_crime/index.htm online is still a very convenient way to report non-emergency crimes: **In an emergency ALWAYS dial 999**

- Non-emergency crimes include:-
 - Theft (excluding robbery, where you or the victim were subjected to violence or the threat of violence and burglary)
 - 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 contact your [local police station](#) to report, or 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 available be on that number. An investigator will contact you to discuss the content of the report and to update the investigation.

It must be stressed that this service is not to be used in an emergency. Crimes concerning the loss of high value consignments or that require an immediate response, suspect present, possible loss of forensic opportunities are emergencies. If in doubt ring the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) 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) on 0208 246 9972

AIMSS

The Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards has continued to be progressed and developed. A second version of the AIMSS document has now been completed and we anticipate a launch conference will be announced in the near future.

Hampshire Constabulary

Operation Grafton met with the Hampshire Police Serious Crime Intelligence Cell and discussed developing crime trends and new intelligence requirements. These meetings help to reinforce the links between Grafton and its partners, and are critical to its success.

TAPA (Transported Asset Protection Association)

TAPA has sent through an important warning from Poland. The victim of a hijacking was “gassed” in his cab in a petrol station while the suspects made off with 96 units of the load.

TAPA has also announced its Q4 conference will take place in MALTA on the 15th and 16th November. Please visit www.tapaemea.com for more information.

UCANVERIFY.COM (UNIQUE "REAL TIME" IDENTITY CHECK)

UCANVERIFY, which provides an instant online verification system, is now being used at Heathrow Cargo Handling and Service Air Building 521. Several courier companies, including Goldstar and Eurolink have started to issue their drivers with security cards and Circle Express have been trialling a new key fob option. For more information on how UCANVERIFY can help your business please visit www.ucanverify.com.

ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS)

The AVCIS, which incorporates TRUCKPOL, is based in Warwickshire and is the dynamic response nationally to vehicle crime. Like Operation Grafton, they are dependent on support from partners to make it successful. They are seeking to forge new relationships with industry partners who may be able to help in supporting TruckPol in the future. Please contact DC Andy Round on 02476 516 246 for more information.



Operation Grafton Gold Strategic Group

The Operation Grafton Gold Group, comprises Senior MPS officers, Heathrow Aviation Security CO18, Lloyds of London, TAPA, BAA, BA, BIFA, Road Haulage Association and Customs & Excise, met in April this year. Operation Grafton will continue to provide a response to freight crime at Heathrow as well as develop its new operational team. The people who attend these meetings represent the industry and security sectors. If you have any concerns or would like anything to be brought up at the next meeting please contact your representative.

Other business

The numbers of crimes that fall within the Grafton terms of reference are still low. This is due to the success of the operational team and the continued support of the industry partners. Operation Grafton is running a number of proactive operations, which for obvious reasons cannot be disclosed.

In many instances in order to protect confidentiality the information released is limited. 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. Not everything within this or other bulletins necessarily falls directly within the Grafton terms of reference, but for varying reasons are considered relevant.

If you have information that you think is relevant to Operation Grafton please contact a member of the Grafton team on 0208 246 9972 or e-mail operation.grafton@met.police.uk

Crimes of Interest

GCI/029/2007

Over the last year a number of counterfeit company cheques have been used to obtain funds by deception. These cheques were being cashed all over Europe but only came to light when an attempt was made in Wimbledon London. The total has yet to be confirmed but the most recent cheque was valued at £3,500.

GCI/036/2007

On 16/05/2007 an agency employee at a warehouse in Colnbrook, Berks stole a load of photographic equipment. CCTV helped to identify the individual who stole the equipment overnight which led to the equipment being recovered.

GCI/040/2007

On 30/05/2007 a van was hijacked en-route to London carrying £1,600,000 of custom designed mobile phones. Police responded quickly and the get-a-way vehicle was pursued into Thames Valley where it soon crashed. The phones that were stolen were recovered even though the suspects attempted to offload the goods while making off. Two suspects were arrested and two are currently outstanding.

GCI/041/2007

In June a customer received a load of mobile phones and noticed that a number of the pallets had been damaged and approximately a quarter of the load was missing on delivery. The amount, which was stolen, is still being assessed and Surrey Police are investigating.

GCI/053/2007

On 01/07/07 a driver, who stated he was from a transport company, presented a collection note at a warehouse for 13 pallets of laptop computers. The note had a mark on the back as a fingerprint ID but he was not seen to apply the mark. The driver was able to get the goods loaded and made off with no trace. Investigations continue.

GCI/065/2007

On 25/07/2007 a Ram-Raid took place at a warehouse in Hillingdon, London. The warehouse was empty at the time but was used to contain high value freight goods. The offenders used a new Land rover Freelander to ram the shutter doors allowing access to the warehouse area. The Freelander was left at the scene and the suspects made off in another vehicle. Officers from Operation Grafton are investigating.

Operation Grafton Results

May

1. Four arrests were made in relation to an armed robbery and kidnapping in Hillingdon, London where £500,000 of computer equipment was stolen. The victims were threatened and the driver was removed from the cab. The passenger was then kidnapped and tied up but was found with the vehicle when it was recovered. When searching the suspects' home addresses an imitation firearm and blank ammunition was recovered. These persons are in custody awaiting trial.

2. A male was arrested for theft employee for stealing computer equipment worth £18,000 from the lorry he was driving on behalf of his employer. The goods were stolen from a computer company based in Colnbrook, Berks. The driver was bailed and will appear in court in early September.

June

Two males were arrested trying to escape after hijacking a van carrying a load of mobile phones worth £1,600,000 in Hampshire. The details of this offence were previously mentioned under GCI/040/2007.

July

Three males were arrested for attempted burglaries in Feltham and Tower Bridge, London where some high value computer equipment was stolen. The value of the goods are unknown as they were all disturbed at the scene. The suspects managed to gain access to the secure areas with great ease, passing code-locked doors and doors locked with electronic magnet locks.

August

1. Following extensive investigation a 5th male was arrested to the same armed robbery and kidnapping in May 2007 where £500,000 of computer equipment was stolen. This male has been charged and is in custody awaiting trial.

2. After a complicated and lengthy investigation by Operation Grafton and Dutch authorities, European Arrest warrants were executed under Section 3 of the Extradition Act 2003 on four males and one female for a hijacking that took place on 1st November 2006 in Belgium where 3000 mobile phones were taken. The 3 vans were transporting goods on behalf of a Heathrow based warehouse en route to SCHIPHOL. The 3 vans stopped near GHENT, Belgium and alleged that they had been attacked. The vans were later recovered in HOLLAND with 2000 of the phones missing. Dutch Police took command of the investigation and then contacted Operation Grafton for assistance.

3. 1 male was arrested for theft of audio equipment at a courier company in Hayes, London. The value was estimated at £150,000. The goods had an incorrect bill but the master bill number appeared to be correct. Operation Grafton continue to investigate.

In the last 4 months since our last publication Operation Grafton has made 17 arrests for offences involving more that £2,500,000 and a recovery of an estimated £2,225,000 of property.

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 (log) is kept of any insertions or removals. Please ensure that all original material is retained for a minimum of one month. (For further advice please contact Operation Grafton. 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 excellent footage of suspects engaged in criminality, which has significantly assisted identification and arrests

Note Presentation – Please verify, check and verify the provenance of collection notes/invoices. Check and verify collecting drivers 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 the Grafton office. Where appropriate we will liaise with the borough and assist with or take responsibility for 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. The most common method is to approach the drivers when they leave for the day and offer sums of cash between £500 and £5000 for information and codes to the doors. Even though this method is not as common as it was before any such approaches should be reported to Operation 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 callers details, if unsure DO NOT DISCLOSE and contact your company security department or police.

There have been a number of burglaries where holes have been knocked in walls to gain access to warehouses. Please ensure CCTV is covering all areas and there are no blind spots inside the not covered by CCTV or alarms.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT OPERATION
GRAFTON FOR CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE**

One-Year Ago...

This time last year saw a few incidents take place, Firstly in June 2006 we had an incident where BT REDCARE cables were being cut. The suspect was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit commercial burglary.

In July 2006 we had an attempted hijack of a French lorry. The driver was asleep in his cab at the time and one of the suspects was dressed as a police officer wearing a police hat and high visibility jacket.

In August 2006 we had two crimes that fell into the Operation Grafton remit. The first on the 6th was a hijacking of a courier van carrying a load of computer chips. The suspects used an old powerful vehicle to take out the security vehicle and stop the van. In total, £300,000, of computer chips were stolen.

The second crime was a deception at a high value cargo company where £400,000 of jewellery was taken. The suspect presented a false collection note and was able to obtain control of the goods.

Around The World

The rising crime levels around Johannesburg Airport caught the attention of Freight Forwarders and The Association of European Airlines and it was decided that action was needed. TAPA set up a local TAPA group to help tackle the organised crime around the airport; this is chaired by Samsung and assisted by TNT Express. It is hope that this new scheme will help in reducing crime.

There was a serious case where a driver of a lorry in Poland was gassed while his load was being stolen. This occurred August 2007 when the driver had made a stop in a petrol station.



Working together for a safer London

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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.

Confidential Helplines...

Operation Grafton is always keen to hear from anyone who has information about crime taking place at or near Heathrow Airport. 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