

NEW SCOTLAND YARD



## KEY INFORMATION

Operation Grafton deals with 'Any allegation of crime concerning the movement of freight, where the value of property stolen or attempted to be stolen is in excess of £25,000 and is connected with Heathrow Airport'.

Crimes investigated by Operation Grafton include aggravated burglary, burglary, deception, robbery, vehicle hijacking and theft.

The types of goods targeted by the organised criminals involved include - mobile phones, computer equipment, electrical goods, jewellery, camera equipment, clothing, cash/currency and gold.

During the period April 2003 - July 2004, Operation Grafton has undertaken more than 30 operations. Ninety-four individuals have been arrested and property estimated to be worth in the region of £100 million recovered. Many of those arrested have already been successfully prosecuted. Others still await trial. In addition, Operation Grafton designated crimes have been reduced by 73% in the first six months of 2004 when compared to that of the same period in 2003.

# Specialist Crime Directorate

## Operation GRAFTON

### Who's involved?

Operation Grafton is a joint operation involving the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), Thames Valley and Surrey Police Services as well as other agencies, including Her Majesty's Customs and Excise.

Geographically, Heathrow Airport is located within three police service areas - Metropolitan, Thames Valley and Surrey. Many of those responsible for cross border crimes under investigation, appeared to be resident in these areas. Therefore, it is vital to have effective liaison between the police services; to pool cross border intelligence centrally and make it readily accessible to all.

### What is it?

In April 2003, a targeted intelligence cell supported by a crime prevention arm was created to examine the scale of the problem. This team (identified as Operation Grafton) is tasked with reducing the levels of high value crime in and around Heathrow. Operation Grafton identifies both the organised gangs of criminals and individuals responsible for the losses and arranges intelligence operations against them. The intelligence gathered is then passed to specialist police units, such as the Flying Squad, for pro-active arrest and prosecution.

### Partnership

Operation Grafton relies strongly upon the support of its industry partners. Members include individuals who are experts from the fields of aviation, freight, transport, security and insurance. Their valued input is based upon years of experience has been key to making Operation Grafton successful. Heads and prominent members of various trade groups have a voice in the progress of this initiative and sit together with law enforcement managers from the four organisations in meetings where matters concerning both strategic and tactical progress are discussed.



made by both central government and policing agencies to urgently tackle the problems that they were facing. The potential threat to both the UK economy and, more specifically, Heathrow Airport's associated community was, therefore, obvious.

### What are the drivers?

Operation Grafton evolved from major concerns raised by members of the industry associated with freight movement through Heathrow Airport with regard to the significant and unsustainable losses that they were suffering as a result of serious and organised crime being committed in and around the airport. Concern was such that two large electronics companies relocated out of the UK. Many other such companies said they would follow unless efforts were

### Scale of the problem

Between March 2001 and July 2004, there have been 165 Grafton-type offences, which occurred within the jurisdiction of the three police service areas. These resulted in total losses estimated to be valued at £163 million. However, it is important to recognise that transit cargo crime is not exclusive to either Heathrow or the UK - estimated losses across the globe are said to be in the region of £50 billion.



*Working for a safer London*