



**OPERATION GRAFTON  
BUSINESS NEWS  
Tel: 0208 246 9972**

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Issue **14**

Period **April 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

*Welcome to the fourteenth issue of our Operation GRAFTON bulletin for the Industry. As mentioned previously, all MPS documentation is written in order to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. Accordingly, this Bulletin reflects the terms being applied corporately within the MPS, which are required in order to adhere to this legislation. Once again I have annotated this issue as having no restriction on publication under this Act.*

*Just to remind you that the Operation GRAFTON terms of reference are: -*

- *Any allegation where the value of property stolen, or attempted to be stolen, is in excess of **£10,000** and where*
- *There is a connection with Heathrow Airport*

*The £10,000 base figure is effective for crimes occurring post 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005.*

*Information highlighted in this bulletin will once again not disclose any details of Operation Grafton tactics; however if you have information about any of the crimes listed please do not hesitate to contact us on the above telephone number.*

Details of all previous Operation Grafton bulletins for the industry can now be found at [www.aimss.info](http://www.aimss.info).

- Before I commence this report I must apologise for the delay in its publication. This has been due to both operational reasons and my involvement with the recent Operation Grafton conference. I will follow this document with the May release at the earliest opportunity.

## Court Results

- There are a number of Grafton linked cases currently at trial. Results will be published in the May document.

## CRIMES

- **Arrests - Operation BEVEREN** - On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2005, five men were arrested whilst engaged in robbing a jewellers shop in Richmond, Surrey. This was as the direct result of a joint operation between Operation Grafton, the Flying Squad and other police intelligence units. Three men were arrested at the scene with a further two associated arrests being made shortly after in Windsor. Four of the suspects have now been charged with the offence and remanded in custody. The fifth has been released on police bail. Of interest is the fact that two of those actually engaged in the robbery were on weekend release from prison.
- Following an enquiry into the theft of 1295 Nokia 7610 mobile phones which occurred on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2005, one person was arrested on suspicion of obtaining a pecuniary advantage by deception. Enquiries however are still ongoing.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2005, £10,000 worth of mobile phones were stolen whilst in transit from a freight company in Hayes Middx to Dubai.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005, the occupants of a blue van entered a high value warehouse premises in Slough. All were wearing balaclavas. However, on entering the premises they encountered more staff present than appears to have been anticipated – they then left empty handed.
- Operation Grafton was informed this month of a theft / deception which occurred at the premises of a logistics company based in Surrey. The offence occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2005, when they released £240,000 worth of computer chips against a bank 'cleared' cheque that was subsequently withdrawn. The courier driver concerned was driving a white Ford Galaxy VRM **T122KDA**. Please be aware that this system of theft remains ongoing. Criminals will usually pay by cheque through a clearinghouse from Tuesdays of each week onwards. Ordinarily cheques will take three days to clear. However the use of a clearinghouse makes the cash available to the seller in a faster time period thereby allowing re investment. The clearinghouse will obviously use a bank and so the 'clearing' system still applies. The suspects enhance the three-day clearing process time by using Scottish Bank cheques as this lengthens the clearance period by a further two days. They then write the cheque from Tuesday onwards so that the intervening weekend period extends the clearance time further still. It is only when the banks come to finally clear the cheque that the loss is identified.

- On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2005, a quantity of clothing valued at £12,500 was collected from an airport venue and kept overnight in the back of the driver's van at his home address in Wraysbury. On returning to the vehicle next morning, the property was found to have been taken.
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- On 18th April 2005, a burglary occurred at a high value warehouse in Colnbrook. Entry appears to have been forced via a rear door. An untidy search of the premises then took place and a large amount of baggage was rifled. Subsequent enquiries revealed that a blue BMW was seen leaving the premises. It is not known exactly what property was stolen at the time.

## **CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES**

- **Attempted Burglary at an Off-Licence.**

Date – 5<sup>th</sup> April 05

Time – 22:15-23:57hrs

Venue – Off licence, Crowthorne, Berks

The manager had locked the premises and just gone upstairs when the shops alarm was activated. On returning downstairs he found the front door hanging off its hinges. The manager then saw a vehicle driving away at speed.

- **Burglary at a Non-residential**

Date – 6<sup>th</sup> April 05

Time – 23:40hrs

Venue – Courier company, Poyle, Slough

Suspects entered the warehouse via an unlocked front door and then forced entry to a door of an internal cage within the warehouse. It appears that a speculative search was then made and four boxes of shoes/clothing taken. Also stolen was a small quantity of “distress flare” cartridges, which were taken from a separate box nearby. It appears that at the time of the burglary, the employees of the warehouse were having a meeting. Prior to the meeting a vehicle similar to that believed to be involved in the above Off Licence offence was seen at about 23:15 hrs to be outside the building. The vehicle concerned was believed to be on false plates and will be the subject of an update in the May bulletin. In summary two persons have subsequently been arrested and a vehicle recovered.

- Operation Grafton was also informed this month of a theft of £21,000 worth of Sony Ericsson mobile phones, which occurred between 20-21st March 2005. The phones were stolen from a lorry whilst it was parked overnight outside a logistics company in Basildon, Essex. The property arrived in the UK by ferry on 20th March. The driver then spent the night in his truck outside the Basildon premises. When he got up in the morning he noticed that the doors of the trailer had been opened. At first glance he didn't notice anything missing from the vehicle and shut the doors. He only subsequently noticed that the goods were missing from the very back of his truck as he

was in the process of unloading into a warehouse premises in slough. The company to whom he was delivering at the time were the first on his delivery schedule.

- Between 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005, a commercial burglary occurred at premises on the Clayton Road Business Park, Hillingdon. Entry was gained via an unknown method however; the suspects subsequently drove a forklift truck through the wall into adjoining premises. Unfortunately for the suspects, due to cabinets being located behind the wall concerned, access was not possible on this occasion and as a result only a generator and drill were stolen. Operation Grafton is now aware of five recent burglaries that have occurred just outside of its area where forklift trucks have been driven through un-sensored walls.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2005, a lorry containing FCUK clothing was parked outside premises in Purfleet, Essex. The driver was awoken by a disturbance from the back of his lorry and upon checking found four men offloading cartons onto another truck. The men fled and he immediately reported the incident to the Grays police. After the police left the scene on this occasion the driver then went back to sleep, remaining in the same location, leaving the side curtains insecure. Later the same night the driver was again disturbed and woke to find the men again offloading more cartons from the truck. The suspects on this second occasion had also parked vehicles to the front and rear of his truck in order to stop it being driven off. At some point the driver was also threatened. The driver again rang the police but by the time they had arrived at the scene all 368 cartons had been removed.

## **OPERATIONS**

- Operation Grafton is currently engaged in a number of operations.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- Operation Grafton officers continued to prepare throughout this month for their Heathrow conference.
- On 21 April 2005, Operation Grafton was selected as one of three finalists from 92 entries in the uniformed services section of the national Public Servant of the Year Awards at the Grosvenor House Hotel, W1. The award was subsequently won by a police community team from Barnsley. Grafton is however grateful for the support of a number of its community partners at the evenings event
- DCI Beyer and DI Douglas also visited Schipol Airport this month with regards to an ongoing investigation.
- Operation OREGANO concerns the murder of Danny Blackett who was believed to be involved in various aspects of the freight trade. If you have any information, which may assist with the on going enquiry please contact on the number provided below and we will put you in touch with a member of the investigation team. Alternatively you may call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

- The total number of Grafton associated arrests since March 2003 has now risen to 120.
- Operation Grafton also welcomed the addition of an officer from HMCR to the team this month.

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

- **Operation Grafton crime prevention officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 75 premises as meeting the standards required. Grafton is now in the position where overseas companies are contacting its offices for advice as to whom it should use to move products through Heathrow. Whilst as a policing organisation we cannot name companies, we are referring those concerned to the list of companies who have AIMSS accredited premises. If you require more information about this scheme please visit the [www.aimss.info](http://www.aimss.info) website where you can also obtain a self-assessment pack on line without cost.**

## **OPERATION GRAFTON SUMMARY**

- If you require further information about any of the items contained within this issue please contact DI Paul Douglas on the number below or at the email address given. In addition, if you have information about any of the above crimes or any other Grafton offences please contact us at: -

**Tel: - 0208 246 9972/3**

**Email: - [operation.grafton@met.police.uk](mailto:operation.grafton@met.police.uk)**

Alternatively you can call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. All calls will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Paul E DOUGLAS  
Detective Inspector  
OPERATION GRAFTON**