



Specialist Crime Directorate
SCD7
Serious & Organised Crime OCU

OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
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Issue **6**

Period **August 2004**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the sixth 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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind our partners of the Operation GRAFTON terms of reference from 1st April 2004. These are: -

- *Any allegation where the value of property stolen, or attempted to be stolen, is in excess of £25,000 and where*
- *There is a connection with Heathrow Airport*

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.



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CRIMES

- On 18/08/2004, a consignment of freight was despatched from an “on airport” freight shed to stand 186 for onward transmission to Cork, Eire. The goods were taken by baggage truck and left on the stand. The relevant flight however arrived 1 ½ hrs late. It was then loaded on a “quick turn around” and flew back to Cork. On arrival in Cork, four items of freight were found to be missing. These were originally thought to have been left behind on the Heathrow stand. A search of the stand was immediately instigated and two of the items recovered. This left two items outstanding the first of which was an aircraft Elevator/Aileron computer valued at \$140,000. The second was a consignment of computer games/consoles (value unknown).

CRIMES OF INTEREST

- On 6th August 2004, at about 5am, a French lorry driver was awoken by four suspects breaking into his cab whilst he was parked in the Service Station at junction 9 of the A40, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The individuals concerned placed a hood over his head and drove the vehicle onto the M6 where they bundled him into a waiting Citroen Xsara. Both the victim and car were subsequently abandoned in the Nuneaton area of Warwickshire. The lorry, which has still to be recovered, was laden with perfume; the exact value of the missing property remains unknown.
- **Diversion Fraud.** On 9th August 2004, there was another attempted to commit an infiltration / diversion fraud which involved a large “on airport” warehouse as a potential victim. On this occasion a male contacted a third party courier company quoting the Airway bill number and the weight of the goods. A driver from the courier company was then despatched to collect from the warehouse, but as he had no paperwork the collection request was refused. In all the confusion that followed, the suspect was given the contact telephone number for the courier driver. He then contacted the driver and informed him that the correct documentation would be sent. A male also subsequently contacted the same driver and said that he was from HM Customs and Excise and that the other goods he already had on his lorry as a part load needed to be re-collected because they had not been Customs cleared. The driver was then directed to take these goods to an address in Canning Town so that they could be Customs cleared. Fortunately the companies involved became suspicious and the diversion failed to succeed. Had it done so, the value of goods concerned would have made this a Grafton crime.
- On 10th August 2004, unknown persons stole an old Vauxhall Astra motor vehicle from Sunbury on Thames and went to a mobile phone shop in West Byfleet where they unsuccessfully attempted to ram the premises. No property was stolen.
- On 14th August 2004, a burglary occurred at a warehouse premises on a Business Park in Cowley. During the offence a large quantity of special paper, which was for use with cardiac monitoring medical equipment, was stolen. The suspects concerned were wearing balaclavas and used a blue estate car to commit the offence.



- Attempted Deception [**Diversio**n] - On 19th August person(s) attempted by way of deception to steal two pallets of goods from a large conglomerate company which has offices in Surrey. The merchandise concerned was valued at approximately £75,000. This was once again another telephone infiltration fraud where a male attempted to get goods retrieved from a warehouse, post-delivery. The suspect's intention on this occasion was again to get the goods delivered to a location in the Canning Town area. This is method and related destination is now common with regards to this current pattern of crimes.
- Supplementary to that above, another **diversion** fraud occurred in the Canning Town area w/e 27 August. On this occasion the suspects acquired 22 pallets of Levi Jeans valued at £400, 000.
- Warehouse Burglary - Overnight 23-24th August 2004, a burglary occurred at a premises in Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex, resulting in the theft of £100,000 worth of GPS tracking equipment. A complex method of entry was used on this occasion.
- At 1:10am on 31st August 2004, four white males armed with two handguns forced entry into a warehouse premises in Reading, where they assaulted and tied up the security guard before stealing £723,000 worth of HP flat screens. During the commission of this offence the suspects forced the guard to give them his hourly "phone in" codes and stole his swipe card. They also tied up a second security guard when he attended the venue from a nearby location. The suspects were said to be in possession of white 7.5-ton MAN lorry and a green Toyota, part registration number HJ52.....

OPERATIONS

- **The Grafton team have continued to be engaged in a number of enquiries this month.**

MISCELLANEOUS

- The problem with Red Care Alarm offences outside of the Operation Grafton area has continued this also month. A number of premises have had their wires cut and several had suffered "follow-up" burglaries. If you have premises that are protected by this system, please consider adding a GSM 'back up' to your package.
- GRAFTON officers have been notified of a potential theft problem with freight shipments by a Hounslow company forwarding thro' East African Airlines to Nairobi. Property concerned includes computer consumables and laptops. £100,000 of goods have gone missing so far since the beginning of this year. At this stage, the goods seem to be checked as correct until received by the customer in Nairobi, where they are subsequently alleged to be missing from the pallet.
- **Court activity** – An individual who was trying to sell a large quantity of stolen computer chips obtained as a result of a Grafton crime has now been committed for trial.



- **Court activity** – A number individuals involved in various Grafton crimes including the robbery of a farm shop in Thames Valley, an attack on a lorry in the Midlands and the robbery / hijack of a courier van in Surrey are now on trial for these offences.
- Hounslow officers have this week arrested an individual in connection with the recent Saints lorry hijack. Enquiries continue.
- Operation Grafton now has an analyst who commenced working at the Grafton offices at the end of the month.

OPERATION GRAFTON CRIME SUMMARY

- From the above information you can see that diversion fraud is becoming a problem. Thankfully as a result of Operation Grafton briefings given to many of our partners trade groups, companies have remained vigilant and therefore as a result potential losses have been reduced. If you require further information about this issue please contact DS Tony Moore on the number below or at the email address given. In addition if you have information about the 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

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**



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