



**OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
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Title:	OPERATION GRAFTON BULLETIN
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Relevant to:	Operation GRAFTON Policing
Summary:	Summary of Operation Grafton activities in August 2005
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Issue **18**

Period **August 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the seventeenth 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 1st 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.

CRIMES

- On 9th August 2005, £12,500 worth of fishing flies were stolen whilst in transit at Heathrow. Following information supplied to them by Operation Grafton, Devon and Cornwall officers subsequently made arrests in the Plymouth area in relation to this matter after some of the items were discovered being offered for sale on UK E-bay.
- On 19th August 2005, an armed robbery took place at a warehouse premises in Langley, Berkshire, during which five members of staff were tied up and threatened with hammers. One of the victims was however, subsequently released and forced to drive a forklift, which was then used to load up two lorries with lap top computers. Total value of property stolen = £272,000. A grey Volkswagen panel van registration T479VKE was also stolen during this incident.
- On 8th August 2005, a ram raid occurred at a warehouse premises in Hounslow. On this occasion the victim left the property locked and secure on Saturday afternoon. However, when he returned to work on the Monday morning he noticed that the alarm was sounding. The victim then found that the front shutter door had been rammed by what is thought to have been a large truck. The victim then entered and found that four pallets of Plasma screens had been stolen, which were worth an estimated total value of £120,000.

CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES

- On 29th July 2005, Operation Grafton was informed of the theft of a container of coffee from a venue in East London. The suspects subsequently returned to the venue and stole a container load of noodles (half of which were subsequently recovered). They then returned for a third time and stole a container full of wine.

OPERATIONS

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

MISCELLANEOUS

- Officers from Operation Grafton seconded to Operation Theseus following the July London suicide bombings have now all returned to the team.
- Two suspects arrested by Operation Grafton for theft employee and handling stolen goods offences at Christmas 2004, have been further charged with money laundering offences.
- Operation Grafton officers have assisted Glasgow colleagues dealing with a hijack of a lorry belonging to a Heathrow Freight Company. This appears to be an ongoing linked-series.

- A new method of used by criminals to cause a vehicle carrying a high value load to stop has been discovered following an attempted robbery. The offence occurred whilst the vehicle was travelling northbound on the M5 towards junction 3. A vehicle travelling towards it began flashing its lights and its driver was seen to be pointing at the front of the victim's vehicle. The driver/victim however ignored this. A second vehicle then also flashed its lights a few minutes later and again pointed to the front of the victim's vehicle. It was only when he was flashed for the third time that the driver thought he should stop and check his lorry. As a result the driver then drove into the service station and inspected the front of his vehicle. As he did so he a Mercedes Sprinter van drove up next to him and it's driver threatened him. Another lorry subsequently drove up and a large number of Iraqi's jumped out and started to unload the victim's vehicle into both the Sprinter van and their vehicle. Unfortunately for them a passing member of the public called the police in the belief that the emerging Iraqi's were illegal immigrants. The police were however very quickly on scene resulting in twenty persons being arrested on suspicion of committing the robbery.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Operation Grafton crime prevention officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 102 premises as meeting the standards required. If you require more information about this scheme please visit the 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 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**

