



**OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
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Title:	OPERATION GRAFTON BULLETIN
Purpose:	For information & distribution to Group Members
Relevant to:	Operation GRAFTON Policing
Summary:	Summary of Operation Grafton activities in February 2005
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Issue **12**

Period **February 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the twelfth 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.

For reference, I would also like to take this opportunity remind our partners of the new Operation GRAFTON terms of reference. These 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 February 2005, officers from Operation Grafton, Heathrow Crime Squad, DIU and uniform officers were deployed on Operation WADDON, which led to the arrest of two individuals on suspicion of being engaged in the theft of £200,000 worth of laptop computers from an airport warehouse. One individual was believed to have acted as the inside agent. The other suspect was driving a van fitted with false number plates.
- On 15th February 2005, a consignment of CPU's en-route from Heathrow to Holland Via Dubai was substituted for bags of flour. This was discovered on receipt in Holland and reported back to the Courier. The value of the loss is approximately £150,000. Operation Grafton is now looking at this incident and similar incidents connected with substitution thefts in both Holland and the USA.
- Between 12.00 hours on Saturday 19th and 07.45 hours on Monday 21st February 2005, on the Poyle Industrial Estate, Slough, suspects smashed through a double brick wall and stole a number of boxes containing JIMMY CHOO shoes and handbags. They used an unknown tool in conjunction with an anti-ram post that was not from the venue to commit the offence. Total value of goods stolen was in excess of £230,000.
- On Sunday 20th February 2005, at about 16:47hrs, five suspects using an old box shaped white FORD TRANSIT with a dark horizontal stripe along both front wings and rear doors, kicked in a glass panel of a fire door exit to a Colnbrook warehouse premises. They entered and stole some 16 boxes of 42" PANASONIC PLASMA SCREENS – estimated value at around £40k. The van concerned also had a side panel door and was a twin wheel based vehicle.

CRIMES OF INTEREST

- On 4th February 2005, at approximately 12:30hrs, the driver of a Mercedes Vito van containing three pallets of mobile phones (1000 Erickson units) was rammed from behind by a mark 3 or 4 silver Vauxhall Cavalier on the M1 in Northamptonshire. The occupants of the Cavalier then smashed the victim's window with a handgun and sprayed him with CS gas. He was subsequently forced out of the driver's seat at gunpoint and driven onto the A5 at Dunstable where he was ejected from his vehicle. This vehicle together with its load was then stolen. Operation Grafton has circulated photographs of the outstanding property to the industry and is liaising with Bedfordshire Police with regards to this enquiry.
- Operation Grafton has been informed of a Red Care Alarm related burglary, which took place in mid-December '04 at a warehouse premises in London NW2. On this occasion Intel Pentium 4 and AMD CPU's valued at £500k were stolen.
- On 12th February 2005, £300,000 worth of computer equipment was stolen from a Staffordshire warehouse following a Red Care burglary. Four suspects were involved in the offence

- The 15th February 2005 saw an attempted load diversion of a lorry transporting £500,000 worth of Bentley motor vehicles. Operation Grafton working with Kent police were able to disrupt the crime and the load was delivered safely.
- On 15th February 2005, a driver from a Heathrow based haulage company was required to deliver a consignment of shoes to the Barking area. On arrival at the destination it was noticed that the company's seal was missing. Police were called and 21 boxes were discovered hidden in the lorry cab. The driver made a full admission in interview.
- On Friday 25th February 2005, diamonds with an estimated value of \$70,000,000 were stolen during a raid on a security van at Schipol Airport. Operation Grafton is liaising with the Dutch Police with regards to this enquiry.

OPERATIONS

- The Grafton team are currently engaged in a number of operations.

COURT SUCCESS –

- In November 2004, following a request for assistance from an 'off airport' freight forwarding company, Richard THOMPSON from NW10, was arrested by Operation Grafton and Surrey Police for a note presentation deception involving the potential loss of £108,000 worth of Intel retail computer packs. He subsequently entered a plea of Guilty at Guildford Crown Court this month and was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. Thompson had just been released from prison shortly before the offence took place and he was wearing a prison tag at the time of his arrest.

MISCELLANEOUS

- We are grateful to Swissport for sponsoring Operation Grafton by providing us with a hire vehicle for a year.
- Grafton has also been collating information from all the national airports with regards to freight crime displacement and we are grateful to TAPA for assisting us with this research.
- DCI Beyer and DI Douglas attended the quarterly TAPA Conference in Belgium this month where they gave a presentation / update on Operation Grafton. If your group would like to receive the updated presentation please contact us as per the details below.
- Operation Grafton is also now liaising with both the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and US Customs at Miami Airport.

OPERATION GRAFTON CONFERENCE

- Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur, who is the director of Operation Grafton will be hosting a conference at the Renaissance Hotel, Heathrow on the 12th and 13th May 2005. The conference will deal with issues of intelligence, detection and crime prevention. It will include presentations on National, European and International matters associated with freight crime. Speakers include US Customs, Dutch and Belgian Police. AC Ghaffur will also outline the future of Operation Grafton at this event.
- The cost of the two-day conference will be £50 (including buffet lunch/teas & coffees). There will also be a formal evening meal with guest speakers and live entertainment (TBC). The cost for this meal will also be £50.
- Hotel rooms have been made available to conference delegates at a greatly reduced rate of £92 per night (including breakfast). Exhibition stall space is also available.
- If you would like more details please email <mailto:tanya.panchal@met.police.uk>

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**