



Specialist Crime Directorate
SCD7
Serious & Organised Crime OCU

OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
Tel: 0208 246 9972

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Author:	Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS
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Issue **11**

Period **January 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the eleventh 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.



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CRIMES

- Operation Grafton was informed of the theft of a number of boxes of computer hard drives from within a warehouse at Heathrow, which occurred over the Christmas period. The exact value of the property has yet to be ascertained but it is thought that this will fall well within the Grafton remit.
- On Sunday 9th January 2005, suspects unknown forced entry to the front shutter door of a warehouse premise in Colnbrook and stole a large quantity of designer children's wear worth £720,000. Operation Grafton is working with Slough Police with regards to this matter.
- Grafton was also informed of the theft of a large quantity of Swiss watches estimated to be valued at approximately £100,000. The property was stolen from a freight forwarding company in Acton whilst on route to premises in Ealing, West London. The losses happened over a period of time during the last quarter of 2004.
- On 18th January 2005, another box of computer chips worth £32,700 was stolen from within a Courier premises in Feltham. This was the first shipment sent by a freight forwarder to the courier company since a previous spate of thefts brought a stop to the movements in 2004.

CRIMES OF INTEREST

- On 6th January 2004, a Courier vehicle travelling on the A45 in the West Midlands was rammed from behind by a stolen artic which was fully laden with kitchen tiles. When the Courier driver walked to the rear of his vehicle to remonstrate with the other driver, a suspect jumped into his cab and drove the vehicle away with 25 pallets (£650,000) worth of white Erickson mobile phones on board (unfortunately the Courier driver had left his keys in the vehicle). The suspect driving the stolen lorry abandoned it at the scene and decamped with another suspect in a black VW Golf. The stolen white coloured Erickson phones are only just in the process of being introduced into UK markets.
- Operation Grafton has been informed by another Courier security manager of a blue Mercedes C180 car VRM M185CLX, which followed one of his vehicles on 6th January 2005, to three "drop off" locations at Egham, Esher and Evesham. An Asian male from Wolverhampton has recently acquired the vehicle concerned.
- On 11th January 2005, the driver of a Courier vehicle was stopped by a black male in Ferry Lane, Laleham / Staines on the pre-text of asking for directions. The suspect then stole the vehicle and contents after threatening the victim with a knife.
- On the 19th of January 2005, a freight company in Colnbrook received a number of telephone calls from an individual attempting to divert a high value load of shoes to Plaistow. Information has been received from DI McCalvey at Plaistow, indicating there have been several such attempts recently. Current information regarding this offence has now been passed to Truckpol who are collating the intelligence on these



offences. As a result of their intelligence work two persons have now been arrested.

- Operation Grafton has also recently been informed of the theft of £147,000 worth of DVD films within a Colnbrook warehouse during December 2004.
- On 22nd January 2005, a burglary took place at a warehouse premises in Feltham where suspects gained entry by knocking down an external wall of the building using sledgehammers to effect their purpose. Although no property (computers) was taken on this occasion, this method has been used on at least three previous occasions at similar high value warehouse premises. The most recent was on the 1st February 2005, at a retail premises in Newbury. On this occasion £15,000 worth of computers and a number of vacuum cleaners were stolen.
- The 25th January 2005 saw the theft of £7,500 cash from an airline office located within one of the Terminals at LHR.
- On 24th January 2005, 35 Nokia mobile phones valued at £2,888, were stolen from a pallet/skid whilst they were held in a Transport company warehouse in Feltham. The goods were waiting to be transferred to LHR.
- Surrey Police wish to trace the following stolen vehicles:

Red Ford Escort G159WPC
Blue Leyland Freight Lorry G169TYM
Blue Ford Escort E909XGK
Red Vauxhall Cavalier J516RTM

Grey Ford Fiesta Van L169GOH
White/blue Ford Tipper N154UTA
Red Vauxhall Vectra R383PCK

OPERATIONS

- Operation Grafton is currently engaged in a number of operations and initiatives.
- Operation DUNHAM. This multi-agency operation continues to prepare for the various court hearings scheduled throughout 2005.
- Enquiries have continued into the loss of a large number of mobile phones, which occurred in 2004. Arrests connected with this investigation have now been made by Sussex Police in both the Brighton and Eastbourne areas.
- There have also been further developments with regards to research into the loss of a large quantity of electrical items whilst they were in transit from Heathrow to Holland. Operation Grafton has been working with Heathrow Police, Manchester Police and a Heathrow based Freight Company with regards to this matter. Two persons have been arrested so far and a small quantity of the outstanding property has been recovered.



MISCELLANEOUS

- The Cargo Terminal Police Cargo Office has temporarily become the National Deceased Repatriation Coordination Desk as a part of an operation responding to the Boxing Day Tsunami disaster.
- On the 13th January 2005, two white males in a **dark blue VW Golf VRM D457BPA** were seen acting suspiciously in the vicinity of a warehouse in the Horseshoe at Heathrow. This vehicle is suspected of previously being used in an attempted theft at an industrial unit in Slough on 1st December '04; theft of a quantity of LCD screens from a Supermarket at Camberley on 6th January'05; and in an attempt to steal tyres from a transport company in Colnbrook on 12th January'05.
- Operation Grafton gave a presentation to members of industry at the Carrier Intelligence Group this month. It also provided a presentation to senior Japanese Police officers during their visit to Scotland Yard.
- Swissport has agreed to sponsor the Operation Grafton team by providing them with a lease/hire vehicle.

CRIME PREVENTION

- Vehicle Security – Grafton has been reliably informed that there are problems with the central locking system on Ford Transit vans. This is in addition to methods, which currently allow access to Mercedes Sprinter Vans. If you require further information please email Paul Douglas at the address below.
- The Operation Grafton Crime Prevention initiative is continuing to survey company premises free of charge with a view to tightening security at the venues in a cost effective manner. If you would like to obtain a self-assessment pack please log on to www.aimss.info. Details of certification and copies of previous Operation Grafton bulletins can also be found at this address.
- Operation Grafton is hoping to hold a one-day international conference for the industry at a Heathrow based hotel during the early summer of 2005. Full details have yet to be confirmed. However, if you are interested in exhibiting at the conference please contact Paul Douglas on the details below.

OPERATION GRAFTON SUMMARY

- **Finally, Friday 28/01/05, was DCI Noel Feeney's last working day as I/C Grafton Intelligence team. He asks that his thanks are passed on for all the support he has been given and we in turn thank him for "being a good boss". We also wish him well for the future. DCI Peter BEYER has now taken over from Noel and we welcome him to the team.**



- 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



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