



**Specialist Crime Directorate
SCD7
Serious & Organised Crime OCU**

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

Protective Marking:	Not Protected
Publication Scheme:	Yes
Title:	OPERATION GRAFTON BULLETIN
Purpose:	For information & distribution to Group Members
Relevant to:	Operation GRAFTON Policing
Summary:	Summary of Operation Grafton activities in June / July 2004
Author:	Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS
Creating Branch/OCU:	Serious Crime Directorate SCD 10 (8)
Date:	2 nd August 2004
Review Date	2 nd August 2005

Issue 5

Period **June/July 2004**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the fifth issue of our Operation GRAFTON bulletin for the industry. As will be apparent from the amended style of this frontispiece, all MPS documentation is to comply with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000. This Bulletin together with all future issues will therefore reflect the terms being applied corporately within the MPS to adhere to this legislation. To this end and in line with my previous bulletins, I have annotated this issue as having no restrictions on publication under the Act.

Turning to business, ...I am pleased to be able report that the overall number crimes committed this reporting period continues to remain low when compared to that for the same period last year. However, since the last report there have been several incidents which fall within the Operation GRAFTON remit that are now receiving our attention. In addition to mentioning these below, I have, once again, included other crimes of interest which are relevant to ongoing investigations. I would also like to take the opportunity to remind our partners that the Operation GRAFTON remit has now been changed with effect from 1st April 2004, in that the base figure for Grafton crimes has now been reduced to £25,000.

Details of the operations undertaken by the GRAFTON team will once again not include any details concerning the use of police tactics. However, if you have information about any of the crimes listed please do not hesitate to contact us on the above telephone number.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London

CRIMES

- On 30th May 2004, a burglary / ram raid occurred at the premises of a Thames Valley Air Cargo company circa 4:55am. A stolen black Ford Fiesta registration **L669 PJN** was used to ram the metal shutters of a premise on the industrial estate concerned. Having effected entry, the suspects then smashed a hole through a wall thereby gaining entry into an adjacent premises. Nothing however, appears to have been stolen on this occasion.
- On 1st June 2004, an attempted lorry hijack occurred in Langley, Slough. The incident happened at around 05:20am whilst the Dutch lorry driver was parked and resting. The driver subsequently got out of his vehicle when he heard noises around his lorry. At this point 3 males who were wearing balaclavas and carrying handguns confronted him. The driver was detained at gunpoint and the contents of the lorry inspected. It was however, at this point that the suspects discovered that the lorry was carrying pre-packed sandwiches. They then departed leaving the driver in a shocked state.

Used in the commission of this offence was a Silver Audi RS4 bearing the number plates Y234EVL. It is suspected that this vehicle was stolen and displaying false number plates.

- On 4th June 2004, a security van was hijacked in the Ivor Heath area of Thames Valley. The occupants of a **silver Audi A4 registration V990 DJB** attacked the van and two cashes boxes containing £25,000 total were stolen.
- On 9th June 2004, at 04:10am, an attempted burglary occurred at an industrial unit located on the Lakeside Industrial Estate, Colnbrook, Slough. On this occasion the suspects attempted to force entry into the premises with the aid of a crowbar. They were subsequently disturbed by a lorry driver and left the scene in both a **yellow BMW** and **green Ford Transit van**. No property was taken.
- Aggravated Burglary Poyle Centre, Slough. On 9th June 2004, at 04:25am - four offenders used a **green Ford Transit van index L988 CUK** to ram the doors of another premises. During the course of the incident a lorry driver who witnessed the event had a handgun pointed at him. He stated that one of the offenders was a black man who made off in **yellow BMW M3** part index said to be either **LQ 03 ... or LR 03**. The company concerned had at that time been anticipating the arrival of a significant shipment of mobile phones. This load had however been redirected to another premises for overnight storage at short notice. Therefore no property was taken on this occasion. This offence and the circumstances surrounding it are identical to offences committed at the same venue approximately two months ago. On that occasion the suspects broke into the premises on the following night in order to see if that diverted load had arrived. However, as it hadn't they again left empty handed.
- On 13th June 2004, unknown suspects lifted a utilities cover in Hillingdon and cut through separate RED CARE ALARM cables for 15 warehouse premises. This activity, in addition to disabling all the alarm systems, also caused a total failure of telephone and IT systems within each of the premises concerned. No "follow up"



burglary occurred.

- Overnight 14th – 15th June, unknown suspects cut through the wire fence at the rear of an IT storage warehouse located within the above estate. Once again, no apparent attempt was made to enter a building.
- On Monday 21st June 2004, a driver for a company at Heathrow, delivered two 61” Plasma Screens to a shop in Paddington. As the driver approached the shop a male came out of it and asked him if he had the two Plasma Screens. When the driver affirmed, he was told to take them to the “warehouse” two doors away. The male then helped the driver unload. Two days later, the shop telephoned the company concerned and asked why their TV screens had not been delivered. The cost of this deception, £26,000.
- On Monday 21st June 2004, a company in Ashford, Middlesex contacted Operation Grafton to say that they had had a box of Pentium 4 computer chips stolen “whilst in transit” to another company in Feltham. This was the sixth identical incident to occur between the two companies in a three-month period. Each box stolen is said to have been worth £25,000.
- During the early hours of Wednesday morning a transport company van was on route from Swissport to Bax at Heathrow (distance approx 3 miles), when two men in reflective jackets (who were standing at a bus stop), flagged down the driver. One of these suspects jumped into the front of the van and forced the driver to drive a short distance across the A30 to a location where the vehicle was unloaded. The driver decamped at this point and the suspects made off with \$213,000 worth of Hynix chips.

An almost identical crime occurred at the same location in January of this year. On that occasion a firearm was used and £500,000 worth of Hynix chips stolen.

- On Sunday 25/07/2004 at about 10.15pm two suspects wearing dark balaclavas and white PVC gloves attempted to break into an Air Cargo unit in Harmondsworth. The individuals concerned were also believed to be in possession of a silver Mercedes Estate. On this occasion the suspects concerned cut a small hole in the fence before gaining entry into the yard where a number of loaded vehicles were parked. No property was taken.
- A theft of a “restricted “ APU jet engine was reported this week (this is the power unit that “enables” an aircraft whilst it is parked / docked). The unit was shipped to Heathrow from the US on 30/04/04. It arrived as scheduled and was subsequently moved to an off “airport warehouse”. It then however, went missing whilst in transit between that warehouse and the forwarding warehouse next door. The exact value of the unit is not yet known, however it is anticipated that it will have been worth several hundred thousand US Dollars.

**The consignment is an APU unit Model: GTCP36-150R;
PART NO: 3800270-4; SERIAL NO: P-202; W.O. NO.:
U015181. It may have been miss delivered.**



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London

Any sightings please to the Grafton Office.

CRIMES OF INTEREST

- One computer company reported the theft of thirteen lap top computers at Heathrow. Heathrow police cargo officers investigating the matter found that sheets of lead weighing approximately 7 kilo's had been substituted into each of the boxes concerned. This had been done in an apparent attempt to avoid detection at the time that the goods were "check weighed". The allegation was brought to the attention of officers from Operation Grafton during a freight security conference in Belgium. They were able to network with representatives from the computer company concerned (based in Ireland), the freight forwarder (based in Holland) and a Dutch Police officer from another "transit port" involved who was also present at the conference. It was soon established that the theft had taken place in Holland. The Dutch officer was therefore able to ensure that this matter was properly investigated when the shipment returned to Holland. The loss on this occasion was estimated to be in the region of £26,000.
- During the early hours of 10th June, suspects drove a Datsun Patrol vehicle through the front of an Off Licence in Staines, Middlesex where they subsequently removed the ATM. The individuals concerned must however have been disappointed when they discovered that it was empty. They then left in another vehicle. The Datsun concerned had been seen shortly before the incident in the Thames Valley police area travelling towards Staines (its occupants having apparently failed in their attempt to steal an Isuzu Trooper). The vehicle was said to have been in company with a silver coloured estate car. Enquiries made by Surrey Police confirm that the Datsun concerned had been stolen shortly before the incident from within the Thames Valley area.
- One individual was arrested overnight 22 – 23rd June as he was allegedly engaged in the process of cutting Red Care Alarm wires to a warehouse in Reading. Although the premises concerned were subsequently found to store Plasma Screens no property was taken on this occasion.

OPERATIONS

Operation Grafton has been engaged in a joint initiative with partners from the Metropolitan Police, HM Customs and Excise and Surrey Police. This came to fruition on Tuesday 27th July 2004 when 200+ officers from these three member organisations executed seventeen search warrants across the Grafton area. This activity resulted in 15 arrests being made and a large quantity of property being recovered. The arrests were made in relation to both Grafton crimes and a significant Customs investigation into drug smuggling through Heathrow Airport. Individuals arrested included those for the \$6.5 million cash robbery at Heathrow in 2002 and further suspects for the Swissport robbery. Officers also seized property including a Porsche, a Ferrari and high value property stolen during ram raid in May 2004.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London

MISCELLANEOUS

- On Tuesday 15 June, between 23:21hrs and 23:28hrs, in Weybridge, Surrey, suspects drove a **silver Subaru Estate index M412 RBA** through the front window of a sports shop stealing £20,000 worth of clothing. The vehicle, on “false plates”, was later found burnt out in Stanwell. A chassis check confirmed the vehicle to be stolen and that it’s **true VRM was L506 OAV**. The three suspects concerned were described as being white men, aged 18 – 23 years.
- Between 23:45hrs Monday 14 June and 08:15hrs Tuesday 15 June in Weybridge, suspects forced entry to premises and stole the keys and a **silver Audi RS4 VRM X566 AEU**. The vehicle, which had its “tracker” activated was then driven towards Staines and later Heathrow. The vehicle has not been recovered and remains outstanding at this time.
- Intelligence received from a security company concerning a suspicious vehicle, which was seen to be shadowing a “high value” escorted load on it’s way to Scotland. This information was passed to Strathclyde Police.
- Enquiries made with regards to a Volvo that has been involved in a number of serious offences across all three Grafton police areas have now been concluded with the driver being identified.
- Operation Grafton has identified a number of offences where an attempt has been made to “divert” high value loads by making phone calls to various members within a potential victim company. During conversation the suspects establish the transport routes used by the victim company and their normal routes of transportation. They then call the other companies within the chain whilst claiming to be an individual from one of the companies involved. The suspects then arrange for loads concerned to be diverted. During the period that they are waiting for a load to arrive, the suspects will also often call the company concerned stating that they are police officers from the local police station. They usually ask if any of their staff are still “on the ground”. This call is made in order to identify whether there is any police interest.
- In addition, a number of incidents have been identified where goods are released against cheque payment after which the relevant cheque is withdrawn.

OPERATION GRAFTON CRIME SUMMARY

- Operation Grafton is pleased to report that overall Grafton crime for Q1, Q2 2004 when compared to the same period for 2003 is down by 73%. This figure takes into account the new base figure of £25,000 w.e.f. 1st April 2004. Since its inception in April 2003, Operation Grafton has now generated: -



- 1787 intelligence reports
- 32 pro-active operations
- 99 arrests
- 6 firearms recovered (3 real and loaded / 3 replica)
- £150 million worth of property recovered
- Created a minimum standards document for industry – which is to be launched in October 2004

RESULT - Operation BROOMHILL

14. On 27.10.03 officers from SCD7 (7) Central Task Force (West), working with Operation Grafton arrested five suspects as they were in the process of carrying out an armed robbery on a high value cargo lorry in Hounslow. One loaded revolver was recovered. On 23.7.04 all five defendants appeared at Woolwich Crown Court where they pleaded guilty and were sentenced as follows: -

Gwym McCormack aged 27, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit armed robbery & possession of firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. He was sentenced to a total of 5 years imprisonment.

Stuart Burrows aged 32, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal. He was sentenced to a total of 2.5 years imprisonment

Luke Bentley - Smith aged 28, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal and was also sentenced to a total of 2.5 years imprisonment.

The remaining 2 x defendants who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit armed robbery and possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence. Both will be sentenced at a later date. Six officers received Judges commendations for there efforts in a complex investigation.

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.

Paul E DOUGLAS
Detective Inspector
OPERATION GRAFTON



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working for a safer London