



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

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Issue **16**

Period **June 2005**

**Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS**

*Welcome to the sixteenth 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.aimss.info).

## CRIMES

- On 23/05/2005 – A lorry driver and his wife were sleeping in the cab of his lorry, which was parked on the Britannia Industrial Estate, Poyle, Slough. They both subsequently awoke feeling unwell and exited the vehicle to find that curtain sided trailer had been slashed and 11 pallets of Nintendo games worth in excess of £500,000 stolen. This incident has been treated as a chemical incident where an incapacitant appears to have been used. It is the first such incident we are aware of in the vicinity of Heathrow where gas has been used.
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- On the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005, £30,000 worth of CPU's went missing between a Logistics company in Ashford (Middx) and a courier company in Feltham.
- **19<sup>th</sup> June 2005 Armed Robbery / Lorry Hijack Silverdale Road, Hayes**  
At approximately 0440 hrs a 5-vehicle convoy from Luxembourg arrived at a freight services premises in Silverdale Road, Hayes. Two of the vehicles went to the front of the building and 3 went to the rear. One of the drivers got out and went to the security hut but unfortunately it was closed until 0600 hrs so he returned to his vehicle. After getting back in, he was attacked by approximately 4 males, 1 armed with a silver handgun and one other armed with a baton of some kind. The German driver was forcibly removed at gunpoint and the whole vehicle was taken. A short while later the stolen van was recovered locally. The property taken appears to be a large consignment of mobile telephones; the exact stock/value is as yet unknown.
- On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2005, £47,000 worth of mobile phones were stolen whilst within a remote transit shed in Slough. Two persons have been arrested by Operation Grafton and Thames Valley officers in relation to this incident.
- On 20<sup>th</sup> June 2005, £40,000 worth of Fujitsu flash memory cards were stolen whilst in transit from an 'off airport transport company to a logistics company premises in Hounslow. It is believed that a black or dark estate car, possibly a Rover motor vehicle and a silver VW Polo were used in this offence.

## CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES

- Operation Grafton has been made aware of a theft that occurred in Acton on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2005. On this occasion 8 pallets of computers valued at £35,000 were stolen when the Polish lorry driver was met at the venue by suspects who directed him "around the corner" in order to facilitate 'back to back' unloading.
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- On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2005 six suspects wearing balaclavas entered the Vodafone shop in Ruislip High Street, Middlesex and threatened staff before stealing approximately £5,000 worth of stock. The suspects made good their escape using an Audi A3 vehicle although given its size, there may have been another vehicle elsewhere unseen.
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- Hole in the Wall burglary - Uxbridge. Overnight 4/5<sup>th</sup> June 2005 suspects broke into a courier company warehouse in Hayes, Middx by driving a forklift truck through the wall. The suspects then decamped with a number of plasma screens (value not yet known).
- On 25<sup>th</sup> June 2005, a burglary occurred at the warehouse premises North Hyde Road, Hayes. Officers attending the scene believing that the suspect was still inside carried out a risk assessment and called for "back up". Whilst this was happening the suspect is believed to have exited the premises via a rear fire door. No property was stolen on this occasion.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005, a lorry driver conveying mobile phones to warehouse premises in Dawley Road, Hayes arrived late after taking a strange route. He then off loaded his pallets of Sony Ericsson mobile phones at which point 20 units valued at £4,000 were found to be missing. One person has now been arrested in relation to this matter following a joint operation between Operation Grafton and the National Mobile Phone Crime Unit.

## OPERATIONS

- Operation Grafton is currently engaged in a number of operations.
- **COURT RESULT:** Gary PARSON was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment on 15/06/2005 for his part in the thefts investigated as part of Operation AJAX. This brings closure to the operation with all those arrested now convicted.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Operation Grafton welcomes members of the EUROPEAN FREIGHT TRADES ASSOCIATION to the fold.
- Operation Grafton would like to express its thank s to BIFA for their support in writing to the Rt Hon Alistair DARLING asking for central funding for our initiative.
- We are also grateful to LINKS security who have written to the Home secretary both in appreciation of the recent Grafton conference and asking for central funding for Operation Grafton on the basis that it felt the MPS was being put in an embarrassing position by having to ask the industry for financial assistance.
- Operation Grafton was informed this week by the insurance industry of a £300,000 armed robbery, which took place at PRESTWICK Airport on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.
- Operation Grafton has provided assistance to a Dutch Police enquiry concerning a diversion to Canning Town. TRUCKPOL informed.

- Following enquiries into the recent theft of a large number of in car entertainment systems from a warehouse in Sunbury on Thames, Surrey one person has been arrested by Surrey officers after the items were offered for sale on Ebay. Operation Grafton has continued to provide assistance to this investigation throughout this week and further arrests are anticipated.
- Operation Grafton has received information this month, which concerns a UK national who was reportedly robbed of a large quantity of computer chips whilst he was driving in the Heathrow two weeks ago. Unfortunately no record can be found. Any information would be appreciated.
- Grafton has now given a presentation on its role to credit controllers who are members of the European Freight Trades Association. As a result representatives of this 80 company strong group have become a part of the Grafton partnership.
- Grafton also provided an update to the second annual National Airports Crime Reduction conference in Manchester this week. This group has now become formally established with an Executive consisting of a Chair – Mark Beale (SO18), Vice Chair - Ken Upham (GMP) and Secretary – James Wyatt (Essex). The group will now work to the Airport Commanders and Airport Crime groups. It will also publish a news bulletin, which will be written by Barbara White from Hampshire. The group as a whole would like to pass on its thanks to DCI Peter French from Essex Police who played a significant role in initiating the project last year. They also wish him well on his forth-coming retirement.
- Grafton was represented at this months TAPA conference in Poland and provided an update as requested.
- The industries Carrier Intelligence Group held its quarterly meeting at the Grafton premises next week.
- Detective Chief Supt Barry Phillips received a special achievement award on behalf of Operation Grafton at a ceremony hosted by International Freighting Weekly this week. IFW, who are Europe's leading freight trade publication paid special tribute to the work of Grafton in front of 650 specialists from, amongst others, the airline, shipping, haulage and freight industry. ITN news correspondent John Sergeant presented the award. We are grateful to Mr Frank Heinrich-Jones for his assistance with this matter.

### **CRIME FIGURES - Comparison**

	<u>First 6 months 2004</u>	<u>First six months 2005</u>	<u>Result</u>
Crimes	23	20	down 15%
Losses	£92.7 million (Inc. Swissport)	£2.5 million	down 97%
	£2.7 million (ex Swissport)	£2.5 million	down 7%

## **CRIME PREVENTION**

- Operation Grafton crime prevention officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 85 premises as meeting the standards required. If you require more information about this scheme please visit the [www.aimss.info](http://www.aimss.info) website where you can also obtain a self-assessment pack on line without cost. Grafton is now being contacted by various overseas companies with regards to who they should use at Heathrow to move their goods. All enquiries are referred to the AIMSS list.

## **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](mailto: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**

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