



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

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

Issue 4

Period **May 2004**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

*Welcome to the fourth edition of our Operation GRAFTON bulletin for the industry. I am again pleased to continue to report that the overall number crimes committed during May continues to remain low when compared to that of the same period last year. We do however, ask that companies remain vigilant and keep internal security measures under review. If you would like assistance with any crime prevention issues please feel free to contact us and we will put you in touch with some very capable officers at Heathrow who are familiar with the needs of the Grafton freight industry. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind partnership members that the base figure for the Grafton crime threshold has now been lowered with effect from 1st April 2004, to £25,000.*

*The details given below of 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. Details of the company's concerned have also been deleted from the reports below in response to a request made at the last strategic group meeting.*

## **CRIMES**

- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2004, following a joint operation between Grafton officers, HM Customs and Excise, the Flying Squad and members of the industry, eight persons were arrested whilst they were engaged in committing a high value robbery at the premises of Swissport. A number of persons have now been charged with offences associated with this incident and have subsequently been remanded in custody awaiting trial. The potential loss in this case was estimated to be £90 million +.
- Operation Grafton has recently been made aware of four offences, which have occurred over a period of three weeks at an "off airport" premises. Each offence involved the loss of £25,000 worth of computer processors during transit. Surrey Police are assisting Operation Grafton with this enquiry
- On the 29th May 2004, an attempted burglary took place at the premises of an "on airport" company. No property was taken.



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- On the 30th May 2004, a burglary / ram raid took place at an “off airport” premises. No property appears to have been taken at this stage however; Grafton is still awaiting an update from Thames Valley Police with regards to this incident.

## OTHER CRIMES OF INTEREST

- On the afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2004, an aggravated burglary took place at computer premises in Feltham. Four suspects dressed in dark clothing entered the premises, threatened staff with crowbars and hammers and then left taking a quantity of computer chips. The suspects departed in a silver Volvo motor vehicle.
- On the 3rd May 2004, £70,000 worth of fashion clothing was stolen from the rear of two LGV lorries as they parked overnight in a truck stop in Purfleet. One of the lorries concerned was destined for Heathrow.
- On 9/10<sup>th</sup> May 2004, a number of “walkie talkie” radios, were stolen during a shed burglary at a recreation club in Twickenham. *(As you will remember we have previously reported a similar offence resulting in the loss of “walkie talkie” radios, which occurred at a Colnbrook premises on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2004. Any information on either of these incidents would be gratefully appreciated).*
- Two incidents occurred on a stretch of motorway in Warwickshire. These incidents happened one hour apart. The first involved the hijack of a Portuguese lorry and the second was an unsuccessful attempt to hijack of another lorry. Both offences occurred during the early hours and involved suspects using a silver Audi A8 and a blue Audi TT.
- On Wednesday 12th May 2004, there was an attempt to divert a high value load of watches from Stansted to London by an individual claiming to be from the “Stansted misdirected cargo department”. Fortunately the company “saw through” the scam and no loss occurred. **GRAFTON HAS EXPERIENCED A NUMBER OF SUCH DIVERSION ATTEMPTS RECENTLY. PLEASE ENSURE THAT STAFF (both drivers and admin) ARE FULLY BRIEFED TO STRICTLY FOLLOW COMPANY PROCEDURES IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.** The suspects are always plausible and often quote names of other individuals within the company that they have obtained details of. This is usually achieved by repeating their methods over the phone as they move through various layers of the company concerned until they reach an individual who unsuspectingly enables them to achieve their objective. If in doubt, take a landline number from the person calling and then try to confirm the person’s identity with the company concerned. Finally, please let us know at the Grafton intelligence cell.
- On Thursday 13th May 2004, an “off airport” company contacted Grafton officers, with regards to their concerns about a number of individuals who were paying undue attention to their premises. The company involved had previously been the victim of Grafton type offences. Grafton officers were immediately despatched to conduct a search of the area and subsequently stopped and searched two individuals. A few days later a similar incident occurred at the same venue. Grafton is now liaising with both Surrey Police and the company concerned with regards to these matters.



- On Friday 14th May 2004, Grafton was contacted by a company in Holland with regards to an individual who had attempted to redirect one of their UK lorry loads in London. This again appears to be similar to the offence previously mentioned.
- Another attempted diversion fraud occurred which involved a large Airport freight company. On this occasion the suspect attempted to divert £100,000 worth of TV equipment to another London location. Once again the diversion was orchestrated via a series of phone calls made by the suspect to genuinely involved parties. The suspect also made a subsequent follow-up call to the intended victim stating he was a police officer from the local police station and asked whether his officers were still at the scene
- Grafton has also been investigating a number of offences, which involves high value property being obtained against cheques that are subsequently withdrawn. One such attempt is alleged to have involved £2,000,000 worth of property.
- On the 25th May 2004, a 'REDCARE alarm' burglary took place in High Wycombe, Bucks. On this occasion £875,000 worth of various perfumes were stolen. We again request that if anybody has information, which may assist the investigating officer with this enquiry that they contact us on the above telephone number. Companies currently using the REDCARE alarm system (including Chubb, ADT etc.) are also advised to consider adding a GSM "back up" system (which can be obtained from their alarm company), to their protection package.

## OPERATIONS

- OPERATION CARTWRIGHT relates to the £90 million + robbery highlighted at the beginning of this bulletin and was the focus of Grafton activity this month.
- Operation Grafton has also developed a number of intelligence packages this month, which have now been forwarded to proactive units for further action.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- Grafton has referred information to the MPS Stolen Vehicle Squad relating to an individual who is advertising high performance, expensive motorcycles on ebay whilst claiming that he is conducting the sale on behalf of a large airport freight company. The suspect has "used" various corporate trademarks and logos taken from the company's website in order to effect his/her purpose. The company concerned has had no involvement with the any of the transactions. Seven vehicles have been sold via this method within a period of seven days. Each bike is said to be valued at between £5-£6000.
- Operation Grafton has now established a link with police at Glasgow Airport with regards to Grafton type activity, which is taking place at that location. It is hoped that this will be the start of an effective liaison.



- Two officers from the Dutch Police High Tech Crime Unit visited the offices of Operation Grafton this month.
- Grafton officers were also requested at short notice to provide a briefing to the first princess of Thailand and her senior police and military officials as part of a partnership presentation with one of its industry partners.
- An incident, which resulted in a theft from a Mercedes LWB vehicle, recently occurred in the Brick Lane area of London. The offence occurred whilst the vehicle was left unattended and secured for less than ten minutes at approximately 10.50 am. The driver discovered the theft when he returned to his vehicle and found that there was a small puncture hole under the door handle on the rear doors. He then found that the doors had been forced open. Four items of computer equipment had been stolen.
- **Vehicles:** GRAFTON is hoping to secure Industry sponsorship in order to purchase of two fully equipped unmarked Police vehicles. Possession of these vehicles will enhance team performance by enabling officers to quickly deploy to incidents when required. Performance is currently being hampered by the need to follow in the ordinary course of daily traffic when responding to such calls.

## OPERATION GRAFTON CRIME SUMMARY

MAY has been a very busy month for the Grafton team and I apologise for not including more detail of operational deployments at this stage. You can however, be assured that we are continuing to deal with both actual and potential crimes, which fall within the Operation Grafton remit.

May we once again take the opportunity to thank you for all your support and hope that this initiative can continue to thrive as a result of your involvement. If you have any information which may assist us with any of our investigations into the above matters or wish to bring any matter to our attention please do contact us on: -

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.

**Paul E DOUGLAS**  
**Detective Inspector**  
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