



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

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Issue **21**

Period **November 2005**

**Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS**

*Welcome to issue 21 of the 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 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005, an individual using a forged identity card in the name of Terry Cook attended a freight shed at Heathrow with a false documentation in an attempt to collect over £100,000 worth of mobile phones. Thanks to staff vigilance on this occasion no property was stolen. A photograph of the person concerned has been circulated to our partners.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2005, a German driver was attacked whilst waiting to deliver a large quantity of mobile phones into a warehouse premises in Hayes, Middlesex. During the incident the driver was pulled from his vehicle by at least two suspects before being assaulted with a "cross brace". The suspects then attempted to drive away in his Mercedes Sprinter van. Fortunately on this occasion they were unfamiliar with driving a vehicle and trailer (as was being towed in this case). As a result they "jack knifed" the trailer before making good their escape with the van, which contained £302,000 worth of phones.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2005, an Austrian company contacted Operation Grafton to report that it had lost £1.25 million worth of CPU's during transit through Heathrow. The company also wished to report a further loss of £155,137 worth of CPU's, which disappeared in the same way on the day of reporting. In addition subsequent enquiries have revealed that a local company has also suffered losses at the same venue during this period.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2005, six suspects using several vehicles forced two vans laden with a total of £650,000 worth of CPU's to stop as they left a warehouse in Iver, Bucks. The drivers were then pulled from their cabs before the vehicles were driven away by the suspects concerned.
- On 23/11/2005 two or more individuals attempted to hijack a lorry carrying several pallets of mobile phones as the vehicle approached a set of traffic lights on the A4 at Colnbrook, Heathrow. The driver concerned was forced to flee after the individuals concerned smashed his side window. Fortunately a passing marked Heathrow Police Land Rover intervened and the suspects decamped empty handed.

## **CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES**

Strathclyde Police report: -

- On 18/10/2005 an HGV was the subject of a robbery in the early hours of the morning near to Bellshill, Glasgow, when a load of beer was stolen. A white van was used in the commission of this crime.
- About 0630 hrs on 28/11/2005 whilst an HGV carrying a load of spirits was travelling on a trunk road in Ayrshire, the occupants of a white van attempted to have the driver stop. This did not occur and the matter was reported to the police.

## OPERATIONS

- Following a joint initiative between HM Customs & Revenue, Surrey Police and Operation Grafton two men were convicted at Kingston Crown Court on 02/12/2005. One was found guilty of importing cocaine through Heathrow over an eight-year period. He was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment the other was sentenced for attempting to import cocaine. He was sentenced to 16 years imprisonment.
- Following a successful joint Grafton Operation with the Metropolitan Police SCD7 Central Task Force with regards to a robbery, which occurred in Heston, Hounslow on 27/10/2003, Dean Spencer was sentenced at Luton Crown Court on a plea of guilty to 3 years imprisonment for armed robbery, 5.5 years for conspiracy to murder and 14 months for breach of licence. His girl friend Samantha Wilder (who acted as the inside agent) was sentenced to 2.5 years imprisonment for conspiracy to rob. The subjects had arranged to hijack a £200,000 load as it left a courier depot and had stolen a lorry and two cars to affect their purpose. Spencer was arrested at the scene in possession of a handgun and a number of items of the courier companies uniform. During the course of this enquiry intelligence was obtained, which identified Spencer's involvement in the murder of a male as he left a gymnasium in Hertfordshire. The victim died after he was repeatedly shot with an AK47. Operation Grafton is grateful for the outstanding work and professionalism of the SCD7 Central Task Force who undertook this operation and the proficiency of the courier company concerned.
- Operation TAIN was a Grafton initiated operation with Thames Valley Police, which resulted in the arrest of two persons for a series of Grafton remit burglaries, which had occurred across the Metropolitan, Thames Valley and Surrey police areas. Having committed two offences and been arrested (following an excellent operation by Thames Valley Police) in possession of a stolen BMW, Operation Grafton was able to support the arresting officers by conducting a great deal of research, which linked the individuals concerned to other commercial burglaries in the Heathrow area. As a result both subjects were charged with five offences. Leslie LAWS has now pleaded guilty to these offences and asked for two others to be taken into consideration. He awaits sentencing in the New Year.
- Following information passed by Operation Grafton to the Metropolitan Police Territorial Policing (TP) Crime Squad Anthony Gouch was arrested following an excellent TP operation, which resulted in him being charged with four burglaries that had occurred in the Metropolitan, Thames Valley and Surrey Police areas. The suspect was also arrested whilst in possession of a stolen BMW bearing false number plates. Gouch pleaded guilty this week in relation to all of these offences and was sentenced to four years imprisonment.
- Grafton officers assisted another Metropolitan Police department with the execution of a number of search warrants for money laundering this month in culmination of a joint operation initiated by Operation Grafton

## MISCELLANEOUS

- On 01/11/2005 a lorry 'subbing' for a courier company was robbed whilst on route between Farnborough and Stansted Airport. The offence occurred when the victim was forced to stop by the occupants of a BMW, who were dressed in boiler suits, wearing latex masks and were armed with a handgun, crowbars and hammers. The suspects concerned were also seen to be in possession of walkie-talkie radios. On this occasion 100 luxury mobile phones were stolen.
- On 01/11/2005 a driver alleged that he was "flagged" down in Feltham High Street, Hounslow by a suspect who sprayed him with CS gas before stealing £2000 worth of ink jet cartridges.
- On 03/11/2005 a company in Staines, Surrey was asked to deliver £6,500 worth of products to a premise in Greenford. However, after delivery it was discovered that payment had not been made and when a member of the Staines Company attended the delivery address he found that it had been vacated. (*There appears to be a resurgence in diversion crime, which is now centred around the Barking area of London*).
- On 31/10/2005, a large quantity of property was stolen from the back of a lorry in Green Lane, Hounslow. Full details are still to be ascertained.
- On 19/11/2005 a false collection note was presented to a company in Hoofsdorf, Holland in an attempt to secure the release of a large quantity of mobile phones. The suspect was English and driving an English plated Transit Van. Enquiries are still ongoing.
- Operation Grafton and Thames Valley officers were engaged this month in a BBC TV Crime Watch reconstruction of one of the recent spate of robberies at Heathrow.
- Operation Grafton officers have been attended the TAPA conference where they have been made Associate Members.
- One officer attended the Executive Committee meeting of the European Air And Sea Port (EAASP) policing association this week. This organisation is looking to expand direct law enforcement / industry liaison across Europe. If you would like more information or are interested in joining this group please contact Paul Douglas on the details below
- Report amendment. Last month this bulletin carried an item reporting a £1 million loss from a premise in Greenford, Middlesex. The correct value was in fact £100,000. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.
- Operation Grafton was provided with a copy of a counter robbery briefing in Brazil, which described the Operation Grafton partnership as the way forward in tackling these types of crimes.

- An officer in Queensland, Australia who has been reading the industry bulletins has contacted operation Grafton. He has now requested further information as he is considering the merits of the project and its application to ports in his area.

## **CRIME REDUCTION REPORT**

- Operation Grafton Crime Reduction Officers acting under the auspices of the Airfreight Industry Minimum Security Standards for cargo (AIMSS) have now certified 110 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.

## **ON A PERSONAL NOTE.....**

Finally, officers at Operation Grafton would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has supported the initiative throughout 2005. Grafton is not an elite operation. It works because of the success of its partnership whose support we take do not take for granted. May we wish you all a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2006.

## **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.

**Paul E DOUGLAS  
Detective Inspector  
OPERATION GRAFTON**