



**OPERATION GRAFTON
BUSINESS NEWS
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Relevant to:	Operation GRAFTON Policing
Summary:	Summary of Operation Grafton activities in October 2005
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Issue **19**

Period **September 2005**

Foreword by Detective Inspector Paul E DOUGLAS

Welcome to the nineteenth 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 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.

Firstly please amend my last circulation to read August 2005.

CRIMES

1. Below is a list of six offences, which are being treated as a series with similar trends.
- 1.1 The first offence occurred at 5.30am on 17th June 2005 in Silverdale Road, Hayes when the suspects used a Black AUDI A4 estate and a Silver Astra to attack a van whilst it was waiting for a warehouse premises to open. The suspects wore balaclavas and were said to be carrying firearms. On this occasion £266,000 worth of mobile phones were stolen.
- 1.2 The second offence happened on the 26th June 2005 at approximately 3.30pm, when a lorry carrying mobile phones was attacked shortly after it left a warehouse premises in Southall. The driver was then bundled into the foot well of his vehicle whilst the goods were being stolen. He was later released in Hithermoor Road, Stanwell. The criminals used both a Black BMW and a Silver BMW to commit the offence. Mobile phones worth £90,000 were stolen during this incident.
- 1.3 On the 31st July 2005, at approximately 5.30 pm a lorry laden with £300,000 worth of mobile phones was attacked by the occupants of a blue BMW as it stopped at traffic lights in Heston Road, Hounslow. On this occasion the driver was forced into the boot of another BMW and his vehicle driven to Harris Close, Hounslow where its contents were decanted into a blue van.
- 1.4 Offence four took place at 9.30pm on the 7th August 2005 on the North Hyde Road roundabout in Hayes. The offence occurred when a dark coloured Audi with a blue light on top drove across in front of the victim's lorry forcing it to stop at the junction with Dawley Road. On this occasion the suspects attacked both the driver and the security escorts who were following his vehicle. The Audi then repeatedly tried to ram the security vehicle whilst its occupants were in the process of calling the police and continued to chase it along Shepiston Lane. Mobile phones worth £4 million pounds were stolen. However thanks to the actions of the security team the police responded promptly resulting in the victims abandoning the victim's vehicle in Shepiston Lane where it was later confirmed that they had only had time to unload £400,000 of computer chips. **A £50,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in this offence.**
- 1.5 Offence five occurred on the 19th August 2005 at a warehouse premises in Langley, nr Slough when having reversed a lorry up to the door a group of suspects ran in threatening staff with hammers and bars. The victims were then tied up, although one was subsequently released at directed to drive a forklift truck. 12 pallets of laptop computers were stolen worth approximately £297,000 on this occasion. These were loaded onto three lorries including one stolen from the premises.
- 1.6 That latest incident occurred at approximately 8.30pm on the 12th September 2005, when a driver was attacked by the occupants of a white Ford transit van and dark coloured BMW as he left a warehouse premises on The Ridgeway Industrial Estate in Iver, Bucks. The suspects then drove the victim back to his warehouse where they repeatedly threatened to shoot him if he didn't give them

access to the premises. £1.3 million worth of computer chips and mobile phones were stolen during the raid. The Grafton team has however since recovered **£500,000** worth of these. **This offence will be reconstructed on CRIME WATCH and will be shown on the 2nd November 2005.**

CRIMES OF INTEREST & CRIME ENQUIRIES

- On 22nd September 2005, Grafton officers were called to an attempted robbery on a courier driver, which occurred near Walton Bridge in Surrey. The victim had been forced to stop by a total of four suspects using a both dark coloured BMW and Renault Clio. They then hit his vehicle with a wood/metal pole at which point the victim took evasive action and drove away. Fortunately no property was stolen on this occasion.

OPERATIONS

- Operation Grafton is currently engaged in a number of on going operations.
- **Operation CARTWRIGHT results - Swissport**

Eight men have been jailed for a total of 67 years and 9 months for their part in an attempt to steal gold bullion from a depot at Heathrow Airport.

Flying Squad officers, assisted by the Specialist Firearms OCU, arrested the men in May 2004 during an undercover Grafton initiated intelligence-led operation.

Seven men pleaded guilty to conspiracy to rob Swissport cargo warehouse.

John Davis, Derek Sheehan and Alan Larmont received seven-and-a-half years' imprisonment, James Fox and Chris Smith received eight years, Anthony Charles received seven years and nine months', Stephen Nolan eight-and-a-half years and Martin Nolan (who had pleaded not guilty earlier in the summer) was sentenced to 13 years.

The value of the cash, gold and other cargo available during the attempted robbery was estimated to be £33 million.

- Nathan Smithers and Dean Wharf appeared at Woking Magistrates this week and were sentenced for several theft and kindred offences. Both received 6-month suspended sentences. Smithers was also given a 6-month supervision order.

MISCELLANEOUS

- DCS Kerr gave a presentation to the International Association of Marine Underwriters in Amsterdam this month on the role of Operation Grafton. This was well received and received positive feedback in the Lloyds List.
- An Operation Grafton officer also gave a presentation to Air Cargo Netherlands this month.

CRIME PREVENTION

- 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 website where you can also obtain a self-assessment pack on line without cost.

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

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**