

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED  
**OPERATIONAL GOOD NEWS**

**23 January**  
**Specialist Crime**  
**Sex arrest breakthrough**

Officers from SCD5 are celebrating the winning combination of publicity and a public-spirited guesthouse owner, which enabled them to capture a 49-year-old man wanted on suspicion of historic sexual abuse of children in south east London.

The man was arrested in Falmouth, Cornwall, by officers from Devon and Cornwall on Tuesday 22 January, after police were called by the owner of the guesthouse where the suspect had just checked in.

The owner had kept cuttings from his local papers in July 2007, with stories about how the suspect was staying in the Cornwall area and MPS officers had nearly caught him at a guesthouse, but he had just managed to elude them.

He checked the photograph and called his local police.

**23 January**  
**Haringey**  
**Conspiracy to rob convictions**

Three young men who embarked on a four-hour robbery spree across five London boroughs were sentenced to a total of 19 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to rob on 18 January.

At Wood Green Crown Court, Suleyman Ahmed, aged 20, was sentenced to five years' detention in a young offenders institution. Soluoe Bimba Kalongi, aged 22 was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, and Marcel DaCosta, aged 21, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

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**23 January**  
**Croydon**  
**Operation Gerstan success**

Overall crime is down in Croydon Town Centre by 30% thanks to the success of Operation Gerstan.

Police saw a reduction of 36% in shoplifting, 28% in disturbances, 10% in theft snatches and 20% in pick-pocketing, compared to the same period last year.

The operation ran from 3 December 2007 to 13 January 2008. Overall, crime in Croydon has been reduced by 5.1% over the past 12 months (from November 2006 to November 2007), and this equates to a reduction of 2,000 plus in the total number of victims of crime.

**22 January**  
**Flying Squad**  
**Two men jailed for armed robberies**

Two men were sentenced yesterday 21 January, to seven years' and life imprisonment for a series of armed robberies in south east London.

Twenty-year-old Ian Anthony Upson received seven years' imprisonment and 25-year-old Herbert Kulsomu received life imprisonment.

They appeared for trial at the Inner London Crown Court on 29 November 2007. Both pleaded guilty to robbery of £7,500 and possession of an imitation firearm at HSBC bank in West Wickham High Street on 18 July 2007.

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**21 January**  
**CO14 Obscene Publications Unit**  
**£720k C014 FIU confiscation order**

On 17 January 2008, at Southwark Crown Court, a £720,636.86 confiscation order was granted against Stewart McLeod.

McLeod was also ordered to pay the forensic accounting investigation costs of £27,018.05 incurred by the CO14 FIU and travel costs of the financial investigators, who travelled to Cyprus to recover £100,000.

All McLeod's assets are currently restrained in bank accounts and will be immediately released. The MPS could benefit from this confiscation to the sum of £165,000 as part of the Home Office Incentivisation Scheme.

Following a proactive operation by the CO14 Clubs and Vice Obscene Publications Unit (OPU) McLeod was arrested in April 2006 and charged with supplying extreme pornographic DVDs.

He was the sole operator of a large scale business and an investigation by DC Lawrie Day, CO14 Financial Investigation Unit, revealed he had substantial assets held in the UK, Cyprus, Isle of Man, Guernsey and the USA.

In October 2006 McLeod pleaded guilty to all charges and was sentenced 16 months' imprisonment.

**21 January**  
**Economic and Specialist Crime Command**  
**Money Laundering Team result**

A man previously arrested after police uncovered ammunition and plastic explosives at his home address in West London pleaded guilty to two counts of possession of explosives and one count of possession of ammunition at Southwark Crown Court on Friday 18 January.

Aden Dervan, aged 48, was arrested by officers from the Met's Money Laundering Investigation Team on 3 July at his home address for money laundering offences.

He was further arrested for possession of firearms and explosives and charged on the 4 July 2007 with possession of a firearm and two counts of possession of ammunition and possession of explosives.

**18 January**  
**Central Task Force**  
**23 years for drugs manufacture**

A criminal network has been sentenced to a total of 23 years imprisonment after two connected trials for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and for conspiracy to manufacture amphetamine.

A 19-month investigation was launched in May 2005 after John Hyde was identified using the alias of John Cronin and posing as the "head" of a "company" called Chiltern Medical Supplies Wholesalers Ltd.

He used the front of the company to try to buy large amounts of controlled precursor chemicals, which are used in the production of ecstasy and amphetamine.

The company he was seeking to buy the chemicals from notified National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) Synthetic Drugs and Precursors Unit.

The Met's Central Task Force began a proactive investigation that led to a network involving Hyde, Bond and Theodore being identified.

Chemicals seized by investigators would have made 30kgs of high purity amphetamine sulphate with a street value of approximately £300,000. Officers also seized £10,000 worth of high-purity cocaine and £10,000 worth of high-purity MDMA powder.

**16 January**  
**Clubs and Vice Unit**  
**Casino cheat jailed for 14 months**

A man who fraudulently gained entry to at least 35 national casinos to make money through cheating has today been sentenced to 14 months' imprisonment at Southwark Crown Court.

Sajid Rashid, a 41-years-old ex-banker from Ilford; lost his job and his fortune due to his gambling habits.

For a period of ten years he used at least 27 false identities to con his way into London Casinos.

**14 January**  
**Ealing**  
**Operation Reclaim success**

During the first three months of Operation Reclaim Ealing Police seized 677 vehicles, including a Lamborghini, a Porsche and a Mercedes CLK.

Out of the 677 high value vehicles seized, 151 vehicles have been disposed of, 499 restored and a further 27 remain impounded.

Operation Reclaim is the Met's response to the amended Road Traffic Act, which gives police officers the power to seize uninsured vehicles, and those being driven other than in accordance with a licence.

Drivers face a six-point penalty on their licence, a £120 fine and the cost of recovering their vehicle from the pound.

The scheme was launched in Ealing Borough in October last year, Lewisham in November and Brent in December. It will be rolled out across the MPS in due course.

**14 January**  
**Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhoods**  
**Plumstead drugs factory raid**

Officers from the Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team have arrested a mother and daughter in Plumstead during a drugs raid that was triggered by a tip off from the local community.

The address in Tuam Road, SE18, was raided and a search revealed a sophisticated indoor system for growing cannabis plants, a quantity of cocaine and some ecstasy powder. A 20-year-old woman and a 42-year-old woman have been bailed pending further enquiries and forensic analysis.

**14 January**  
**Economic and Specialist Crime Command**  
**Four jailed after 1,800 fake passports seized**

Four men have been sentenced to a total of 22 years' imprisonment for producing and supplying over 1,800 counterfeit documents resulting in the largest single haul of fake passports dealt with by the Metropolitan Police.

Altin Ibrahimimi, aged 31, an Albanian national, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court for conspiracy to manufacture documents.

Dennis Cennoli, aged 25, a Kosovan national was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at Harrow Crown Court for conspiracy to manufacture documents.

Krum Poibrenski, aged 31, a Bulgarian national was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment for conspiracy to manufacture documents. He was also sentenced to a further 18 months imprisonment to run consecutively for a similar offence in 2006, totalling 6 years imprisonment.

Kiril Velev, aged 29, a Bulgarian national was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment for conspiracy to manufacture documents. He was also sentenced to a further 18 months imprisonment for a previous similar case in 2006 to run consecutively - totalling 6 years imprisonment.

The Judge recommended for the deportation of all four following their sentences.

**14 January**  
**Diplomatic Protection Group**  
**Man arrested for possession of imitation firearms**

A man arrested near Downing Street, central London has been remanded in custody where he will appear in court on charges of possessing imitation firearms.

Armed response officers from the Diplomatic Protection Group arrested Paul Farnhill, 44, after he was seen in his car in Great George Street, 250 yards from the Prime Minister's residence.

Farnhill, of Hale, Manchester, is accused of having an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear or violence, having an imitation firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence, making off without payment for petrol and drink-driving.

**14 January**  
**Anti Corruption Team**  
**Man convicted of attempting to corrupt PC**

Marwan Hamze, aged 40 and a restaurant owner was found guilty of three offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act and one count of conspiracy to aid and abet misconduct in a public office.

In October 2006, an officer working in Paddington borough contacted the Directorate of Professional Standards (DPS) alleging a local businessman had offered him money to carry out checks on individuals on the Police National Computer (PNC).

With the full assistance of the officer, the Anti-Corruption Team launched a covert proactive operation.

Officers recorded Hamze offering money totalling £1,250 in return for details of several individuals.

Hamze was arrested on 13 July 2006. Whilst on bail awaiting trial, Hamze absconded and was convicted in his absence. It is believed that he may have travelled to Lebanon.

He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment and ordered to pay court costs of £2000.

**11 January**  
**Specialist Crime**  
**Man sentenced to life imprisonment for murder**

Garath Davies, 23 years, of Mitcham, has been sentenced at the Central Criminal Court to life imprisonment with a recommendation he serve a minimum of 23 years.

Davies was found guilty on 13 November 2007 at the Central Criminal Court of the murder of Egeli Rasta on 4 July 2006 and one count of perverting the course of justice. She was a 27-year-old Estonian national who had been living in the UK since December 2004 and at the time of her murder was living in Mitcham.

**11 January**  
**Territorial Police Crime Squad North**  
**Distraction burglary arrests**

Territorial Police Crime Squad North conducted a proactive operation, codenamed "Operation Wotan", with the support of Richmond-upon-Thames Crime Squad and the Specialist Crime Command on Monday 7 January.

The combined efforts of these units have led to two men being charged.

During Monday's operation officers arrested two men in the Croydon area and took them into custody at Twickenham Police Station on suspicion of being involved in a series of distraction burglaries at over seventy addresses throughout the boroughs of Richmond-upon-Thames, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark and Croydon.

Mark Doe, aged 47 and Walter Smith, also aged 47 have now been charged with conspiracy to commit burglary and appeared at Richmond Magistrates' Court on Wednesday 9 January where they were remanded into custody.

**10 January**  
**Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhoods**  
**Alcohol sales banned from RG shop**

Officers from Shooters Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team have been successful in an application to have alcohol sales banned from an off licence in Woolwich following repeated complaints about crime and under-age sales.

The Kantsa Store had become the focal point for gang and drug activity in the area as their licence allowed them to sell drink until 3am. The high volume of business generated at this time of day attracted dealers, users, prostitutes and thieves who preyed upon local people.

The shop was first targeted by officers who reported members of staff for selling cans of lager to 15-year-old volunteer cadets. A camera was installed to monitor gang and drug activity and night patrols by the Safer Neighbourhoods Team revealed other licensing offences.



**10 January**  
**Merton Borough Crime Squad**  
**VW Cannabis factory found**

Officers from the Merton Borough Crime Squad and Task Force executed a search warrant at an address in Mitcham on 7 January following information passed from the Met's Air Support Unit.

Specialist Search Technicians assisted in the planning of the operation. Hand-held heat detection cameras supplied further evidence to support a search warrant application.

Having gained entry, officers discovered large amounts of cannabis being cultivated in the upstairs bedrooms.

Two Vietnamese nationals were arrested at the scene. One male has since been charged with three counts of cultivating cannabis having been forensically linked to two previous offences and one count of abstracting electricity and is now on remand.

**9 January**  
**Counter Terrorism Command**  
**Trained terrorist jailed**

An Al Qaeda-trained terrorist who admitted preparing to commit an act of terrorism overseas was jailed for four and a half years on Tuesday 8 January at the Central Criminal Court.

Sohail Anjum Qureshi, aged 30 from Forest Gate also pleaded guilty to possessing articles, including night-vision goggles, police-style batons and manuals detailing combat techniques, for the commission, preparation or instigation of an act of terrorism and possessing records likely to be useful for terrorist purposes.

Qureshi was arrested following a joint intelligence-led operation by the MPS Counter Terrorism Command and Security Service.

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**9 January**  
**Vale Safer Neighbourhoods team**  
**Cannabis factory found in Lewisham**

Officers from Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhoods team discovered a cannabis factory when they executed a search of premises at Perry Vale, SE26

The three bedroomed detached house had been rented by persons described as Vietnamese nationals for the past 12 months.

Information was passed to Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhoods team by the landlord who had become suspicious on not finding anyone at home on several visits. He tried to enter the premises by the front door but found the locks had been changed and immediately called 999.

The officers entered the premises by way of the rear door using a key supplied by letting agents.

On entering the premises, they found that the three upstairs bedrooms contained plants and equipment for the cultivation and harvest of cannabis. The entire premises had been rewired with sophisticated equipment to by-pass the electricity meter.

Approximately 200 plants with a street value of £40,000 were seized and removed

At the moment there have been no arrests but police are seeking one male and one female.

**9 January**  
**Greenwich**  
**DVD factory raided in Eltham**

The discovery of a DVD factory in Eltham on Tuesday 8 January, will make a significant dent in the market for counterfeit DVDs across London, Greenwich Police believe.

According to FACT (Federation Against Copyright Theft) it is the largest DVD factory discovered in the past 18 months.

At the scene, they found around 65,000 counterfeit DVDs ready to be dispatched and sold on the streets; 21 copying towers containing 210 DVD multi - burner trays and thousands of DVD sleeves and film labels in two bedrooms at the house.

In the garage, they found around 30,000 blank DVDs stored in boxes.

Seven people, five and two women, all in their 20s, were arrested on suspicion of theft of copyrights and taken to south London police stations.

**9 January**  
**Flying Squad**  
**Man arrested for armed robbery offences**

The Flying Squad has thanked the many Met Staff who have given assistance with their investigation into a series of robberies in central London.

At approximately 4.50pm on Monday 7 January, as a result of a proactive Flying Squad operation, a man was arrested in central London.

He was arrested outside Citibank in Oxford Street, on suspicion of a series of armed robberies in central London. A firearm was recovered.

Steven Robertson, aged 35, of no fixed abode has been charged with ten counts of armed robbery, and one count of attempted armed robbery. He has also been charged with twelve counts of possession of a firearm with intent to commit an indictable offence.

**7 January**  
**Brent**  
**Illegal firearms conviction**

A 22-year-old male was sentenced at Harrow Crown Court on the 23 December to six years in prison for possession of two firearms that had been converted to fire live ammunition, possession of ammunition, as well as possession of eight wraps of crack cocaine.

**4 January**  
**Financial Investigations Unit**  
**Hackney success**

Hackney's Financial Investigations Unit has recovered over £750,000 from over 100 criminals on the borough. In addition to this substantial sum, the unit has confiscated a further £150,000 in assets after conviction.

Some of the money the unit has seized in 2007 will be invested into tackling drug and violent crime in Hackney.

In recent years, the Government has introduced a range of measures designed to take the profit out of crime. These include the Asset Recovery Strategy and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA), which amalgamates and strengthens previous legislation on criminal confiscation powers and establishes an Assets Recovery Agency.

**4 January**  
**Specialist Crime**  
**Career criminal jailed for 12 years**

A career criminal who robbed the same person at the same venue in Victoria on three separate occasions within a very short period last Spring has been sentenced to 12 years and three months. Norman Buckley was detained on the final occasion by a neighbouring shopkeeper with the help of a plain-clothed police officer.

Buckley initially denied his involvement in the first two robberies whilst admitting the third during interview. However, realising the weight of evidence against him, he pleaded guilty to all matters at Southwark Crown Court.

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**4 January**  
**Diplomatic Protection Group**  
**New Year's Eve policing arrests**

On New Year's Day at 3:10am, officers from the Met's Diplomatic Protection Group arrested two males on suspicion of possession of an imitation firearm.

The operation was intelligence led and formed part of the Met's New Year's Eve policing.

The arrests were carried out by armed response officers from the DPG and followed reports of a group of males in Trafalgar Square in possession of a handgun.

On arrival, police stopped and searched a group of four youths within a protective cordon in Charing Cross Road junctioned with Cranbourne Street.

Two men, aged 21 years and 20 years from the Enfield and Hackney areas were arrested for possession of an imitation firearm in a public place. They were taken to a west London police station and have been bailed to return on 3 March 2008.

**4 January**  
**Operation Trilogy results**

Five people have been arrested and two firearms recovered as a result of intelligence gathered by Operation Trilogy, Lewisham's proactive gang disruption team.

The success came in two incidents after officers on patrol were alerted to cars that Operation Trilogy had identified as having links to gangs.

TSG officers saw a Ford Focus car in Greenwich and after pursuing it for a short while, it was stopped. A live 9mm automatic handgun with ammunition was recovered near by. A 25-year-old man was arrested.

Later that evening a Renault Megane was spotted that again had been identified by Trilogy as being used by gang members from Lewisham.

An armed response vehicle conducted an armed stop on Queens Road, SE15. A search of the car found a concealed 8mm handgun with ammunition, masks and gloves.

Two men, aged 19 and 20, and two women also aged 19 and 20, were arrested.

**3 January**  
**Territorial Police Crime Squad North**  
**Operation Brunswick result**

The Territorial Police Crime Squad North (Volume Crime), assisted by colleagues from the Territorial Support Group, conducted nine intelligence led operations throughout November and December working in partnership with Dell Computers and UK Entertainment.

The operations were carried out on the boroughs of Southwark, Lewisham, Newham, Dagenham, Redbridge, Ealing, Brent and Colindale, which led to the following results:

- 20 people arrested for fraud related offences
- The recovery of £500,000 worth of class A drugs
- The identification of a professional passport-making factory
- The seizure of 50 completed fake identities
- Cash seizures amounting to £50,000
- £1.4 million of assets restrained
- The recovery of over £100,000 worth of stolen goods.

**3 January**  
**Safer Transport Team**  
**Kingston news round-up**

Two boys, aged 15 years and 14 years, have been charged with affray and will appear at Kingston Youth Court in January 2008.

On Saturday 10 November 2007 at about 10:30pm, a serious incident occurred on the route 71 bus. The bus was on Bridge Road Travelling towards Kingston when the driver was attacked by a group of youths.

As a result of the assault, the driver lost control of the bus, which collided with a parked car, causing extensive damage to the bus and to the car. The bus driver was taken to hospital suffering from shock and minor injuries.

Following a protracted investigation into the incident involving a number of arrests by Kingston Police Safer Transport Team, the two young boys from Chessington, were arrested and charged.

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**21 December**  
**Economic and Specialist Crime**  
**RART secures £442,315 cash forfeiture**

The London Regional Asset Recovery Team (RART) has secured a £442,315 cash forfeiture against a suspected money launderer.

The cash was found in the boot of a vehicle stopped by officers from the Middle Market Drugs Partnership (MMDP) during an operation in June 2007. The driver was arrested on suspicion of money laundering.

Following an investigation by the London RART into the cash, City of Westminster Magistrates Court, granted the forfeiture of £442,315 on 14 December.