

Operation Rhondda



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T/Detective Chief Inspector



- The operation, code-named “OPERATION RHONDDA” was a joint undertaking by the British Transport Police and Greater Manchester Police, aimed at identifying and prosecuting scrap metal dealers who allow stolen goods to be sold through their businesses.

Regional Rise





Progress

- Overt Policing
- Education & Enforcement of Scrap Metal Dealers
- Operation Tornado

Regional Reduction of 50%

Intelligence suggested underground activity



Sequence of events

- Educational Visits. (Uniform/CID Officers advising staff and directors on SMD act, supplying advice and posters).
- Undercover Operatives visit and conduct sale of suspected stolen metals.
- Covert CCTV and seizure of accounts: (CCTV monitoring visits to the yards and comparisons have been made to the accounts which shows discrepancies).
- Arrest, Searches and Interviews.



Restrictions

Intelligence case – No less than 3 months old

RIPA applications against yards and individuals

Set up costs in excess of £150k

Operation Tornado Photographic identification

Commodity availability & storage



Deployment

Minimum 3 purchases

Covert footage

Criminal Profile Of Undercover Officers



How did we do ??

14 yards on intelligence case

8 positive series of sales

2 straight rejections on 3 occasions

2 Attempted but unable to approach Directors or Managers

1 NFA due to director being arrested for serious offences

1 To have its time again



Strike

- 21 Suspects
- 8 Scrap Metal Dealer Yards
- 20 Home addresses
- 16 Interview Teams
- 400 Officers
- 80 Vehicles
- 3000 Exhibits





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Charges

- 72 Charges in total
- 40 Attempt Handling Stolen Goods
- 6 Encouraging/Assisting Commission of a Crime
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- 26 Converting Criminal Property (POCA)