



## NEWS RELEASE

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### OPERATION CRACKDOWN - FINAL RESULTS

Local communities in **Surrey** are among those reaping the benefits of a major initiative by Government and police to rid the streets of Class A Drugs.

Operation Crackdown - a three month campaign by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Home Office has seen police close more than 170 crack houses, take over £13.4 million of drugs off the streets, arrest more than 3,400 class A drug suppliers, and seize cash assets totalling more than £3,000,000.

The results show that during the campaign:

- 170 crack houses were closed;
- 123kg of cocaine, 3.4kg of crack cocaine, 119.8kg of heroin and 86,059 ecstasy tablets were taken off the streets;
- police arrested 3,419 people for the supply of class A drugs;
- 1,471 people were charged with class A supply;
- 483 firearms were seized, 222 firearms and 261 imitation firearms;
- police seized 3,402 rounds of ammunition; and
- £3,242,932 of cash assets was seized.

Home Office Minister, Hazel Blears, said:

**BUILDING A SAFE, JUST AND TOLERANT SOCIETY**

"Operation Crackdown has been a great success and has delivered real benefits to local communities and has made a massive improvement in the quality of life of local people.

"Surrey Police have made massive strides in taking class A drugs off the streets during Operation Crackdown and I applaud all the hard work and effort put in by the officers involved.

"The operation has delivered impressive results which have made a real difference to the lives of local people. The continuing work of the police services of Surrey to tackle all aspects of drug misuse sends a clear message that drug dealing will not be tolerated and offenders will be brought to justice and face severe penalties."

"We will continue to work with police and other agencies to target and bring to justice those who bring misery to our communities by the use and supply of illicit drugs."

Andy Hayman, ACPO lead on drugs and Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police said:

"The results of Operation Crackdown demonstrate both the Police Service and Government's commitment to target and reduce the supply of class A drugs in local communities across the country. Crack cocaine remains a pressing priority for the Police Service given the threat and danger it poses to society.

"This campaign has shown how targeted enforcement can successfully dismantle class A drug markets by disrupting organised drug dealing syndicates and bringing those involved before the courts. Operation Crackdown has also assisted where appropriate to refer drug users into treatment.

"Forces around the country are working with their partners to maintain and increase the confidence of the local communities that are blighted by the supply of drugs: it is our intention to make the careers of those involved, short."

## Notes to Editors

1. Operation Crackdown was a concerted campaign by 33 police forces in England and Wales, to close drug dens, disrupt local drug markets, seize illegal firearms and bring dealers to justice.

2. Operation Crackdown ran from Wednesday 12 January 2005 to Thursday 31 March 2005 (Home Office press notice 003/05, 12 January 2005).

3. Police activities as part of the campaign included:

- raids on dealers selling drugs on the street;
- raids on premises where drug dealing is taking place;
- the closure of crack houses;
- visible street patrols;
- the use of drug dogs;
- stop and search operations;
- use of CCTV;
- covert surveillance;
- undercover operations;
- related work to tackle street sex markets;
- community engagement activities;

4. Operation Crackdown is part of the Government's wider strategy for dealing with class A drugs outlined in 'Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives' (Home Office press notice 370/04, 25 November 2004, available at [http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n\\_story.asp?item\\_id=1163](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/n_story.asp?item_id=1163))

5. The advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) must be sought on any proposed regulations under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

6. The Drugs Act 2005 received royal assent on 7 April 2005 and gives police new powers to tackle class A drugs which cause the most harm to individuals, families and communities (Home Office press notice 70/2005, 7 April 2005). The Drugs Act can be found at the following website link;

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200405/ldbills/032/2005032.htm>.

7. Local campaign results can be obtained by contacting the police forces involved, those taking part in Operation Crackdown are:

Avon and Somerset, Cambridge, Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dorset, Essex, Greater Manchester, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, City of London, Merseyside, Metropolitan, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, North Wales, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, West Mercia, West Yorkshire, Wiltshire.

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