



## **A Prosecution Perspective in Relation to an Investigation and Prosecution in a Case of Organised Crime and Corruption.**

The following is an outline of a case that is adapted from a real life police operation that took place in the UK at a time when organised corruption was prevalent amongst some police units in London.

**At each stage the delegates will be required to decide on strategic and tactical plans, risk assessments and evidence/ prosecution issues and procedure. The group will also be asked to consider how best to establish a system of cooperation and coordination between the various law enforcement agencies involved in the Operation.**

### **Stage 1**

- 1 Information has been received from a registered informant that a detective (Investigator) is currently involved with a drug syndicate headed by a major organised criminal who has previous convictions for serious assault, dishonesty and drug trafficking. The detective has been tasked to trace a person who has laundered money on behalf of the syndicate and who currently has disappeared with £500,000 of money that he should have deposited in Spain for a shipment of cocaine. The detective is known from previous intelligence and intercept to have placed £100,000 with the known criminal syndicate for part of the consignment.
- 2 The detective has been given the details of the money launderer and he has established that he has a safe deposit box in a bank. He has given false information to a colleague that the safe deposit box has drugs hidden in it. The colleague has obtained a judges search warrant and searched the box only to find it empty.

**As corruption law enforcement specialists the task is to mount a proactive operation against the detective to obtain evidence of his corrupt links with the drug syndicate.**

## Stage 2

- 3 The money launderer has surrendered himself to police and stated that his life is in danger and admitted that he has £500,000 of the drug syndicates money. He has been charged and placed into safe custody.
- 4 The head of the corruption unit has decided that they will use the money launderer to go to the bank to try and discover why the safe deposit box was searched. He will leave a contact number of a hotel.

**At the hotel police have rented a room that has technical recording equipment in it the intention is to see if the corrupt detective goes to the room and searches it in an attempt to trace or locate the money launderer. In the room are belongings of the money launderer and his car is parked outside. In the car police have placed documents of a rented house that the money launderer is staying at. The intention is to further lure the detective to the house potentially with members of the criminal syndicate to gain evidence of their intentions.**

### Stage 3

- 5 A call is made to the bank by an individual purporting to be the money launderer and the officer who requested the search warrant is contacted. After the call the investigators are informed that this colleague is part of the corruption network and has discovered the name of the hotel the money launderer claims to be at and has informed the corrupt Detective.

**What if any operational plan could be put into place to cover any movement of suspects at the hotel and gather evidence. Considered risks and who can they include i.e. the hotel security or staff and what are the risks in doing so.**

#### **Stage 4**

- 6 Further intelligence arrives from an observation team that the main criminal and another have arrived at the hotel and gained access to the room. They believe that the money launderer will return. Within 30 minutes the detective and his corrupt colleague have arrived. A discussion then takes place regarding kidnapping and torturing the money launderer.
- 7 All suspects leave the room they stick a knife in the car tyres outside but do not search the car and do not find the details of the rented house. Three days go by and the trail has gone cold.

**What operational plan would you now put into place to progress the operation or otherwise?**

### Stage 5

- 8 Intelligence is received that the corrupt detective is also believed to be attempting to contact an unknown drug syndicate to purchase cocaine. More importantly the main suspect, the drug syndicate leader and his associate, the suspected hit man (X), are heard to be talking about leaving for Spain as they are concerned that the money launderer may have gone to the police.

**At this stage what would you do? Do you have sufficient evidence to arrest?**

## Stage 6

- 9 The hit man, (X), leaves the country and his whereabouts are initially unknown. The remainder of the corrupt network and the drug syndicate leader are arrested. Further enquiries reveal that X has indeed returned to Spain and in fact has returned to assist the a UK national, (Y), who is suspected of being the main importer into Western Europe of cocaine from South America. The Spanish police have had Y under phone and observational surveillance for months and believe that he has a network across Europe including the UK. It is also suspected that Y launders his 'dirty' money through an apparently legitimate jewellery business in Amsterdam.

### **What can be done about;**

- (a) the hit man X. Can he be extradited back to the UK, or is he left to the Spanish police for them to try and prosecute him for some type of conspiracy offence?**
- (b) What can be done about Y, he appears to be a co-conspirator with X and possibly others to import drugs into the UK bit also Spain?**
- (c) What can be done about the money laundering operation in Amsterdam, what requests for information can the UK authorities make and to whom?**