



21st December 2007

OPERATION TICK TOCK - RESULTS

Fine dodgers have been targeted in an operation led by Her Majesty's Courts Service in Staffordshire which commenced yesterday. A total of 26 individuals were arrested for fines and compensation totalling £34000. Those arrested appeared before a dedicated court sitting at Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates' Court.

Seven individuals who appeared before magistrates' yesterday were sent to prison and they will now have to face up to the consequences of failing to comply with those orders.

Examples of the sentences ordered by the court are as follows:

- Craig Thompson a 34 year old male of Myners Street, Hanley, Stoke on Trent was committed to 35 days imprisonment forthwith for outstanding fines of over £4200
- Ian John Bagguley a 48 year old male of Charter Road, Newcastle under Lyme was committed to 35 days imprisonment forthwith for outstanding fines and compensation of over £3600
- Rachel Capper a 20 year old female of Sneyd Street, Sneyd Green, Stoke on Trent was committed to 21 days forthwith for outstanding fines of over £1100.00

A further 23 individuals were sentenced by the court for failing to pay their outstanding fines.

A total of over £1400 was recovered by Court Enforcement Officers paid by people who wanted to avoid arrest or be committed to prison.

Those targeted in Operation Tick Tock are criminals who have already been convicted and sentenced but have failed to pay fines or compensation to victims despite warnings from Her Majesty's Courts Service.

Derek Shaw, Senior Enforcement Manager for HMCS Staffordshire said "Yesterdays Operation was a great success, a significant number of individuals were arrested and appeared before Newcastle under Lyme Magistrates' Court, and we demonstrated yesterday that we will not tolerate non compliance with court orders.

By sending 7 individuals to prison yesterday the court has issued a very powerful message to those who persistently refuse to comply with their fines as ordered these seven individuals may now be held in prison over the Christmas holidays. Their families now have to face up to the fact that they will be celebrating Christmas without them.

The victims of crime who have money outstanding deserve to have that money recovered and paid to them, the message we are sending out is 'Your time is up, pay up or face the consequences'."

The Courts work closely with Criminal Justice Agencies and others to exchange information

regarding the whereabouts of particular defendants. Court staff have access to the Police National Computer system which allows them to circulate details of wanted people across the United Kingdom.

The ongoing operation is running across the county but yesterday was focused mainly on targets in the North Staffordshire area. Individuals to be targeted have been sent Christmas cards warning them that they face imminent arrest. Rigorous enforcement action takes place on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Those wanting to avoid arrest over the Christmas period should pay or contact the court. Anyone who has received a communication from Her Majesty's Courts Service and has not responded will be targeted in the near future.

Anmarie Comfort Head of Operations (Enforcement) for West Mercia, Warwickshire and Staffordshire said:

"Orders of the court must be complied with and the victims of crime must be paid the compensation awarded to them. Today's operation was a real success and is only part of rigorous ongoing enforcement measures taken by Her Majesty's Courts service to ensure that this happens."

To pay off their fines people should contact the Central Finance and Enforcement Unit on 01889 503500.

Ends.

Media notes:

Anmarie Comfort, Head of Operations Enforcement, can be contacted on 07946592615 or Derek Shaw, Senior Enforcement Manager (Staffordshire) on 07903 055018 for interviews.