

## NEWS RELEASE

11 October 2011

### **Op Thatcham – Nine Arrested on Suspicion of Fraud & Money Laundering**

On Monday 10th October 2011 eight men and one woman were arrested by police in Kirklees as part of a major investigation into suspected fraud & money laundering offences.

The operation came as a result of a major investigation by Kirklees CID, Proceeds of Crime Officers, the Ministry of Justice and the Insurance Fraud Bureau, into a suspected crash for cash scam in Huddersfield that has operated from a business on Blackmoorfoot Road.

Seized during the morning raids were six cars with an estimated value £150,000, cash totalling £20,000 and jewellery with an estimated value of £15,000. One man remains in custody while the other suspects have been released on bail pending further enquiries.

DI Andy White of Kirklees CID said: "These arrests have come as a result of months of work investigating an alleged crash for cash scam operating in the Huddersfield area. The people involved in this organised criminal activity effect us all leading to insurance premiums being inflated to cover these losses.

"These are serious offences and I would like to use this opportunity to appeal for anyone who feels that they have been a victim of such a scam, or may have been coerced into getting involved in one, to contact DC Mark Lunn on 01924 295311 or via 0845 6060606."

People can also contact the Insurance Fraud Bureau's free and confidential Cheatline with information on insurance fraud. The IFB can be reached via 0800 328 2550 or online at [www.insurancefraudbureau.org/report](http://www.insurancefraudbureau.org/report).

**ENDS**

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### Editors Notes:

### About the IFB:

The IFB launched on July 26 2006 and was formed to provide a cost effective, tactical solution for the detection and prevention of organised, cross industry fraud, supporting the wider Association of British Insurers industry fraud strategy. The IFB leads or co-ordinates the industry response to the identification of criminal fraud networks and works closely with the Police and law enforcement agencies.

[www.insurancefraudbureau.org](http://www.insurancefraudbureau.org) [twitter.com/theifb](https://twitter.com/theifb)

**The IFB currently has 29 active joint Police operations spread across 17 Police forces, with the combined value of the fraud involved being approximately £59.5 million. Since its formation in July 2006, the IFB has been instrumental in helping the Police make over 486 arrests of people concerned with organised insurance fraud, resulting in 125 convictions and terms of imprisonment handed down by courts for finalised criminal prosecutions. Additionally, proceedings are taking place to liquidate the assets of criminals who have been defrauding insurers.**

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