

SCDEA
News release
7 April 2009

NORTH EAST CRIME GROUP SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS FOR DRUG OFFENCES

Three men and one woman were today (Tuesday 7 April 2009) sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh to a combined 25 years in prison for serious drug offences.

The individuals were arrested in October last year as a result of an intelligence-led operation, codenamed HAWK, led by the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) and supported by Grampian Police and Tayside Police. The individuals were part of an organised crime group responsible for trafficking large amounts of heroin from England to the North East of Scotland.

Those who were sentenced today include:

- **Iain MCDONALD** (46) of Inverurie – sentenced to nine years
- **Stephen MADDEN** (50), Newmachar – sentenced to six years, nine months
- **Paul FOX** (45), Torquay – sentenced to five years, three months
- **Alison WILKIE** (41), Dundee – sentenced to three years, nine months.

As a result of the four-month investigation, officers seized a total 5.5kgs of heroin, with a potential street value of over half a million pounds, and over £64,000 in cash. In addition, assets belonging to Iain McDonald worth over £150,000 were seized.

It is estimated that over a two-year period the group was responsible for the supply of over £3million worth of heroin in the Aberdeen area and £1.5million worth of the drug in the Perth area.

Detective Chief Superintendent Gavin Robertson, Crime Co-ordinator at the SCDEA said:

"The SCDEA welcomes the news that justice has been served on these individuals and that their self-seeking pursuit of power and profit through the supply of heroin has been brought to an end.

"Drugs bring fear, intimidation and violence to our communities, but the members of this organised crime group went about building their illegal enterprise with no regard for the devastating impact on people living in Scotland.

"Today's result demonstrates that law enforcement is committed to working together to detect, dismantle and punish criminal gangs and prevent their harmful commodities from ever reaching the streets."