



# Press Release

1<sup>st</sup> February 2008

## **SEVEN ARRESTS IN MAJOR SWOOP ON COUNTERFEITERS IN GREATER MANCHESTER**

Seven men were arrested yesterday by Greater Manchester Police as part of a major operation targeting the manufacture of counterfeit films, music, video games and software and the sale of those counterfeit goods in Grey Mare Lane Market and an illegal market near to Burnage Rugby Club. Officers from GMP and Stockport Council Trading Standards were assisted by investigators from the Federation Against Copyright Theft ('FACT') and the BPI, representing the film and music industries respectively.

The seven arrested were taken to police stations for questioning.

Quantities of counterfeit discs, computers and disc burning equipment were seized and have been taken away for examination.

Inspector Norman Lawrence of the Stockport North Neighbourhood Policing Team said: "This has been a highly successful operation, resulting in an extremely significant recovery of counterfeit goods. This operation is an excellent example of working in partnership with other agencies and Stockport Police and our policing partners will continue to do this in targeting those responsible for making counterfeit goods available.

The DVDs will be sent away to be destroyed and I hope this sends a clear message to those involved in counterfeiting that we will continue to keep seizing goods."

Councillor Stuart Bodsworth, Executive Member for the Environment, said: "This has been a very successful operation with the Council working in partnership with the police and the Federation Against Copyright Theft in a bid to protect Stockport residents from these rogue traders. I would like congratulate everyone involved but particularly the Council's Trading Standards team on their professionalism and dedication in bringing this operation together."

Kieron Sharp, FACT Director General, added, "FACT has been working closely with GMP and Stockport Trading Standards to target the sale of counterfeit film and TV material in markets around Greater Manchester.

The public need to be aware that in purchasing knock-off DVDs they are contributing to someone else's criminal lifestyle and encouraging crime in their local communities."

### **About FACT**

The Federation Against Copyright Theft is the UK's leading trade organisation established to protect and represent the interests of the film and broadcasting industry against copyright and trademark infringements.

Established in 1983, FACT works closely with statutory law enforcement agencies to combat the growth of pirate DVDs, film and other forms of broadcast material including the increasing threat from online/internet based piracy. FACT has been accepted as a prosecution authority and engages in criminal prosecutions in its own right.

The maximum penalty for offences of film piracy is 10 years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine. Proceeds of Crime Act legislation now also enables confiscation of assets and goods obtained through criminal activity.

The loss from piracy to the UK audio-visual sector was £459m in 2006.

More information:

[www.fact-uk.org.uk](http://www.fact-uk.org.uk)

[www.copyrightaware.co.uk](http://www.copyrightaware.co.uk)

**To report any illegal activity in relation to counterfeit DVDs call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.**

[www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)