



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SOUTH WALES FILM PIRATES TARGETED: THREE ARRESTED. £500k OF GOODS AND DRUGS SEIZED.**

South Wales Police, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr Tydfil Trading Standards, The Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT), British Phonographic Institute (BPI) and European Leisure Software Publishers Association (ELSPA) last week joined forces in a series of raids targeting film pirates in the South Wales area.

Operation CARD was directed at six addresses in Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil where suspected counterfeiting operations were taking place, as well as an address in Brecon that was found to be linked to one of the targets.

Three men aged 46, 43 and 44 were arrested on suspicion of having committed offences under Trade Marks Act 1994 and Misuse of Drugs Act and have been released on bail

Items seized at one property included a small quantity of amphetamine sulphate, as well as pirate film and music product, and in another house a quantity of suspected stolen Xbox machines. The total value of goods seized was over £500,000, with over 2,000 pirate film, music and games discs in the haul, along with 5 PCs and burners used for duplication. It is believed the discs were being sold via the local communities as well as via eBay.

Raymond Leinster, FACT Director General said, *“This is a good example of a multi-agency operation being used to target prolific film pirates. I would like to thank South Wales Police and RCT & Merthyr Trading Standards for their assistance and continued efforts in tackling piracy in the South Wales area.”*

Chief Inspector Darren Phillips South Wales Police added, *“ This is the first South Wales Police led inter agency operation against individuals involved in counterfeit goods. Those involved in this activity undermine the moral fibre of the communities in which they trade by supporting other criminality such as the use and supply of controlled drugs and money laundering. I hope that this is the first of many such operations.”*

Paul Cannon RCT Lead Cabinet Member for Safer Communities said *“Counterfeiting is a major problem within our communities and I am delighted that our officers have been able to join forces in partnership with other enforcement agencies, to result in this hugely successful operation”*

Councillor Brendan Toomey, Merthyr Tydfil Cabinet Member for Corporate Services said *“Operation Card highlights the progress which has been made in Intelligence led multi agency working and will be the first of many future successful Operations in South Wales.”*

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