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# No Deal

## Tackling drug dealing in Brixton town centre

C/Supt Martin Bridger

Borough Commander, Lambeth Police

Lambeth Town Hall - 30 November 2005



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Date Arial 14pt

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The reasons why

- Based on wishes of the community
- Numerous complaints received
- Engagement with CPCG
- Operation Refresh



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## Typical complaints

‘It is not the point that it is drugs, it is also as residents we have to put up with the intimidation & violence on a day to day basis. I am actually scared to leave my home & scared when I’m coming home. Friends will not visit my home anymore because they are too scared.’

‘I only want you to see that this is not a simple matter of Class C dealing here, the most important thing is the harassment we are under, by people we fear can turn very nasty & violent & who know nothing is being done. This makes them more & more confident every day. I hope there is some kind of response, a response that everyone can see.’



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## Legislation

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- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984



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## ACPO cannabis enforcement guidelines

In some circumstances, arrest *is* appropriate:

- Smoking cannabis in public
- Repeat possession offences
- Inside or near premises frequented by young people
- ‘Officers may arrest persons who are in possession of cannabis under circumstances that are causing a *locally identified problem*’



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## Youth offenders

- Youth offenders dealt with through Crime & Disorder Act provisions
- 17 years & under – arrest for possession & dealt with at police station



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## Police activity

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- Three month trial
- Specific briefing, and debriefing, of officers
- Only those officers briefed will be expected to exercise this power
- Direct supervision by Brixton Town Centre Inspector
- Daily record of all officers briefed



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## Tactics

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- Dealers will be arrested and charged
- Anyone buying drugs (including cannabis) can be arrested (option to NFA, warn, caution, or charge)
- If arrested more than once, they may be charged
- Possible post-charge ASBO for persistent offenders



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## Monitoring

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- Stop & Search figures
- Arrest figures
- Daily debrief
- Daily assessment of community impact
- CPCG involvement



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