



1st July 2009

SOCA RECOVERS OVER £5 MILLION FROM FUEL SMUGGLERS

The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has been granted a Consent Order against three brothers to recover assets worth approximately £5.7million.

In its civil recovery application, SOCA submitted that the McGleenan brothers of County Armagh had derived the majority of their assets through cross-border fuel smuggling and excise evasion.

On 1st July 2009 the McGleenans agreed to settle SOCA's civil recovery and tax claims by handing over assets including:

- 12 residential properties;
- Three commercial offices;
- Three substantial development sites with planning permission;
- The proceeds from the sale of two houses; and
- Monies totalling over £870,000.

The case was referred by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in April 2005.

John Whiting, HMRC Assistant Director Criminal Investigation Northern Ireland and Chair of the Cross Border Fuel Fraud Enforcement Group, said:

“These criminal assets were amassed through years of fuel smuggling and excise fraud but the Proceeds of Crime Act has caught up with these criminals and their activities and reclaimed the stolen revenue.

“Those involved in the illegal fuel trade are not providing a public service; it is organised crime funding luxurious lifestyles. Working in partnership with SOCA we have removed a substantial amount of wealth and stripped the criminal profits from these fraudsters.”

Ian Cruyton, SOCA Deputy Director Proceeds of Crime, said:

“Fuel smuggling is not a victimless crime and the people involved in it should take this warning. SOCA and our partners will pursue all those who attempt to profit from their criminal activities. We will take your assets, and we will take your lifestyle away from you.”

Notes to editors:

1. The Consent Order was granted following an agreed settlement between SOCA and 43 year old Damien John McGleenan, Cargaclougher Road, Keady, 37 year old Joseph Pearse McGleenan of Crossdened Row, Keady, and 42 year old Francis Joseph McGleenan of Mullaghmore Avenue, Keady. The Order was also granted against Dymphna McGleenan, Cargaclougher Road, Keady.
2. Interim Receiving Order obtained on 27th January 2006 in relation to the assets of Damien John McGleenan. The IRO was varied on three subsequent occasions (June 2006 and March 2007 and February 2009) to include the assets of various family members.
3. The 12 residential properties are in the South Armagh and Belfast areas. Two of the development sites are in Northern Ireland, the other in the ROI.

**Interview facilities to HMRC 028 9056 2718 and
press enquiries to SOCA 0870 268 8100**