

Now cannabis farm is found in Highland tourist office

By Graeme Murray

A MASSIVE haul of drugs has been seized from a former tourist office in a picturesque Highland village.

Police raided the property after receiving a tip-off from a member of the public, and bags of what appeared to be soil as well as plants were removed from the building in Strathpeffer.

Witnesses reported a 'huge police presence' on Thursday as eight police vans arrived in the quiet cul-de-sac near a popular museum and cafe.

Villagers say that bags of plant material, believed to be cannabis, were seized from the building.

The find comes after the Daily Mail told how a cannabis farm was uncovered in a disused police station in Manchester.

A cordon was put in place in the village and scores of evidence bags were piled up to be taken away.

A tourist information office for govern-

£1.5m cannabis farm... in a police station

ment agency VisitScotland until June 2017, the property was leased to the Woodland Trust until the end of last year.

The building is believed to have been laying unused, although now in private ownership after being auctioned off when the trust's lease ended.

Villagers contacted police after a strong smell was reported from the property.

One resident said: 'When we came here, we thought we were immune from anything like that.'

'This is a quiet village, but it shows you crime can happen anywhere. They were

bringing out bags of the stuff. It looked like a substantial haul.

'I've no idea how much that would fetch on the black market.'

The 'stench' of what is thought to be cannabis plants was reported to police on Monday but villagers say it was not until Thursday that action was taken.

It is believed hundreds of plants which were ready to be harvested were recovered by police.

Police were unable to put a value on the drugs found. A spokesman said: 'A number of items were discovered within

and inquiries remain ongoing.' No arrests have been made in relation to the recovery and the police were last night carrying out further investigations into the incident.

On Wednesday, a cannabis farm was discovered at the former Failsworth police station in Oldham, Greater Manchester. It covered the entire first floor.

When officers searched the building, they discovered empty pots and lighting equipment used to cultivate the class B drug.

A £3million cannabis factory was also found inside a former bingo hall in Northamptonshire last month.



Police operation: Large bags of evidence stacked outside the former tourist information centre in Strathpeffer. Left, the story in the Daily Mail yesterday

Why WAS sex predator still at large in UK?

By Cameron Sinclair

AN illegal immigrant who subjected his Scots victim to a terrifying sex attack has been jailed for 11 years.

Joseph Mjemer, 36, assaulted the woman as she slept on New Year's Day last year.

At Manchester Crown Court yesterday, Mjemer was jailed for attempted rape.

Since arriving in the UK in 2003, he has lived in cities across Britain - including Glasgow - and has used 27 aliases to commit 60 crimes, including drug offences and assault.

He was taken into Home Office 'administrative custody' in 2007 while officials attempted to establish his asylum claim - but was granted legal aid to sue. In 2011, he won £17,360 compensation after claiming he had been illegally detained and was left with psychiatric difficulties.

He was served with a deportation order in April but is challenging it on the basis he has no home country, having previously claimed to be British, Italian, Moroccan and Algerian.

A trial heard Mjemer attacked his victim at her flat in Carlisle. She said she woke to find him trying to have sex with her.

She added: 'It has impacted



Jailed: Joseph Mjemer

every aspect of my life ever since. At the time I was working at a job I loved. My dream job.

'I moved to Carlisle from Scotland and was making life-long friends. After this happened I had to go home to be with my family.

'I had to return to Carlisle for a medical appointment and went with my parents to my flat to pick up some things. I went inside the flat and quickly realised I couldn't be there.

'I realised I couldn't be in Carlisle any more. I gave up my dream job. I went back to my family home, knowing I could never return to Carlisle.' She added: 'I am constantly putting

myself through the reliving of it. I felt I had hit rock bottom at the trial. I never had suicidal thoughts before but at this time I actually harmed myself.

'I've since agreed that counselling is needed. I am desperate to move on from this and get on with my life.'

The court heard the attack took place after Mjemer had been thrown off a train at Carlisle en route from Glasgow to London. He went to Concrete nightclub in the city and began chatting to the woman before they walked to her flat.

The woman fell asleep but woke to find Mjemer naked next to her. She pushed him away and rang police as he fled.

He was arrested after CCTV captured him getting a coach back to Glasgow.

During the trial, prosecutor Adam Lodge said: 'A deportation order was issued in April, but he's challenging it on the basis that he comes from an area that isn't Morocco so, technically, is stateless and therefore can't be deported.'

Judge Paul Lawton told Mjemer: 'You treated her as a sexual object for your own gratification, with no concern for her feelings or wellbeing.'

'It may be that upon your release from prison you are deported, but that is a matter for the Home Office.'

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