

Operation Flat

A case involving the murder of an HGV driver. The investigation team at Greater Manchester Police used mapping in Chorus to help outline the series of events that took place around the time of the murder by combining handset and billing information to secure convictions for those involved.



Manchester and the surrounding area are the key locations in the case.

3 offenders get into a van and head towards the victim's house. Their phones become inactive around the same time.



Van gets picked up by CCTV on the way to victim's house.

Chorus - Patterns

- Increased call activity detected between offender and victim in days building up to offence.
- Cell sites used to determine location and offenders co-locate.

Offenders arrive at victim's house and he enters the van. He crucially has his phone on him.



HGV driver is fatally shot at the industrial estate and his body is left outside his home as the van drives off.



Chorus - Map 1

- GPRS data from the billing file used to follow van from house, to an industrial estate, and then back again.

One of the offenders switches his phone on and it co-locates with the victim's that has been left in the van. He makes a call to the owner of a garage as they flee from victim.



Chorus - Map 2

- Cell sites track the location of both phones and the van.
- Garage owner's location recorded from received call.



Garage owner leaves home and drives to the garage to meet the offenders. Victim's phone becomes unresponsive before it arrives at the garage.



Chorus - Map 3

- Owner tracked from his home all the way to garage.
- On arrival he co-locates with offender's phone.



Evidence is concealed and professional cleaning of van is arranged.

Chorus - Map 4

- Cleaner tracked to new garage the day after the shooting.
- Shortly after, the garage owner co-locates with cleaner at new garage.
- In the days running up to the shooting and those after, cleaner and garage owner only contact each other through gun man. Social networks identified the gun man as the middle man for all accused.



Van taken to a new location in an attempt to conceal it from the police where a witness sites the van at a garage.

Van taken back to first garage for cleaning. Job is referred to as 'a forensics'.



Chorus - Handset download

- Messages downloaded from the cleaner's phone identify himself as the cleaner and the 'forensics job' he is on.
- Location data pinpoints him at the original garage.



Chorus - Speed

- Chorus used by GMP Investigator to produce maps for CPS submission in 1 hour.



Result

- 5 convictions in total based on overwhelming evidence.
- Main offender sentenced to a minimum of 30 years for murder.
- 2 accomplices pleaded guilty of manslaughter and received 7 years each.
- Garage owner and cleaner admitted assisting an offender and each received sentences of 21 months.

GMP Investigator Quote

"From an Officers point of view Chorus was invaluable for this job and has been for several other jobs I have worked on since."

For help with your case, please contact us
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