



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

Force defends diamond cash probe

March 16th 2007 by Steve Bagnall, Daily Post

NORTH Wales Police chiefs yesterday defended a lengthy investigation where a Russian businessman waited months to get more than £170,000 back

Police arrested Eugene and Marina Kogan outside a Colwyn Bay bank on May 19, 2005, and launched a major investigation after they withdrew \$300,000.

Yesterday NWP chiefs said district judge Andrew Shaw had backed their decision to seize the Kogan's cash and carry out a detailed investigation at home and abroad.

Mr and Mrs Kogan said they withdrew the cash to finance a diamond deal.

They were immediately arrested on suspicion of money laundering and the cash was seized by police.

The Kogans were never charged and were furious claiming the ordeal had damaged their reputation. They were also angry it had taken months to get their cash back.

The couple, of Brackley Avenue, Colwyn Bay, were eventually awarded the money on Wednesday by Judge Shaw.

Yesterday police chiefs said their actions were fully justified and endorsed by the judge.

A NWP spokeswoman said: "The district judge has, throughout the forfeiture and police property proceedings, continued to make clear that the monies were quite properly seized by North Wales Police.

"The district judge was satisfied that the force was conducting and completing their enquires as diligently and expeditiously as possible."

The Kogans are expecting the cash back in the next two weeks which, with interest, should add up to more than £170,000.

The PPP comments another scandalous waste of policing funds. The Total costs must exceed £30,000. Equivalent to at least one CBM for a year! Maybe the Daily Post could find out the total cost and the police man hours wasted.

How did the arrest come about? ... was it from NWPFs 'rat on a rat initiative' and a bank employee breaking a customers confidentiality ?? If so the bank could be liable.