

Nottinghamshire's major crime results

Nottinghamshire detectives achieved successes in three major investigations on the same day. Five members of the same family were convicted for the murder of Rachel Hudson in Nottingham and for perverting the course of justice. As the guilty verdicts were delivered in Court 1 at Nottingham Crown Court, four manslaughter convictions were secured in a neighbouring courtroom for the killing of John Dabell in Linby. Also convicted of manslaughter was Gary Rowland for the killing of Kerry Bailey in Hucknall. Chief Constable Steve Green said: "This is a testament to the exceptional skills and commitment of our outstanding detectives."

New powers for police

New powers aimed at reducing bureaucracy and helping the police tackle the changing nature of crime came into force on January 1. The powers, contained in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005, include a single, simplified power of arrest for all offences, not just those previously defined as arrestable offences, although police officers will have to be satisfied that an arrest is necessary before exercising this power. Another change will enable officers to take digital photographs of suspects at the scene of a crime, rather than at a police station, making it more difficult for suspects to deny they were at the scene.

Criminals forfeit their ill-gotten gains

Assets valued at almost £400,000 were seized from criminals in Nottinghamshire during 2005 thanks to new laws designed to stop people profiting from crime. The Crown Prosecution Service and Nottinghamshire Police secured more than 80 court orders for the confiscation of cash and property under the Proceeds of Crime Act and similar legislation. The law puts the onus on convicted criminals to prove their assets were obtained lawfully or risk having them confiscated and auctioned off, with proceeds going to help fight crime and compensate victims.

Veto on violence

A crackdown has been launched on acts of violence and aggression against people who work in the criminal justice system in Nottinghamshire. The county's Criminal Justice Board is taking a zero tolerance stand against wilful aggression or abuse directed at staff working for the courts, Crown Prosecution Service, police, probation, prisons and youth offending teams. Posters are being displayed in court buildings, police stations and other premises across the county warning of the consequences of verbally or physically abusing staff, volunteers or visitors.



A preview of 2006

Engaging will keep you in touch with what Nottinghamshire Police is doing throughout 2006. We'll be bringing you news of how we're getting close to the people and communities we serve, through our Citizen Focus project and the development of Safer Neighbourhoods, a style of local policing already being piloted in our City Division. We'll continue to keep you up to date on national force restructuring proposals, and how these will affect Nottinghamshire. And we'll tell you what we're doing on the front line and behind the scenes to improve the way we work and the service we provide, and help make Nottinghamshire a safer place for all.

