# Nottinghamshire Police dismantle £7 million crystal meth trafficking ring disguised as weight loss shakes



# Multi-Million Pound Drug Trafficking Operation Shattered by Nottinghamshire Police

A drug trafficking operation, notorious for smuggling £7 million worth of crystal meth disguised as weight loss shakes into the UK, has been dismantled, resulting in significant prison sentences for its key members. The criminal enterprise, led by Davante James, saw its activities crippled after Border Force officials intercepted the first of several shipments at Stansted Airport in May 2023.

This operation marked a substantial achievement in Nottinghamshire Police's ongoing battle against organised crime. The crystal meth haul represented the largest seized by the force to date, showcasing the threat posed by such illicit activities. The gang flaunted their wealth through social media, with James, a 29-year-old boxing coach, boasting a lifestyle characterised by exotic holidays, luxury watches, and designer clothing, juxtaposed dramatically against the criminality fuelling it.

The investigation unveiled an alarming scale of drug trafficking, with parcels labelled as benign items like weight loss powder, furniture, and clothing, aimed at concealing their illicit contents. In total, the gang was responsible for distributing not only methamphetamine but also 2 kilograms of cannabis. Nottinghamshire Police reported that the group's operation was so extensive, they were generating hundreds of thousands of pounds monthly.

The ramifications of this drug trafficking extend well beyond the immediate legal consequences faced by the gang. As Detective Inspector Ian Smith noted, trafficking at this scale often correlates with increased violence and other forms of crime within communities. Following the successful prosecution of nine defendants at Nottingham Crown Court, each pleaded guilty to various drug charges, resulting in combined sentences nearing 50 years, a critical step in restoring community safety.

The case underscores a growing trend in Nottingham, where organised crime remains a pressing issue. A report highlighted another notorious gang that flooded local streets with drugs over a two-year period, culminating in an aggregate sentence of 82 years for its members in May 2024. This growing issue has prompted law enforcement to strengthen collaborations, notably with agencies such as the United States Department of Homeland Security, to tackle cross-border drug trafficking effectively.

Nottinghamshire Police’s efforts reflect a concerted approach to dismantling organised crime, evident in several successful operations in recent years. For instance, in early 2023, a different drug gang was sentenced to a collective 166 years for their extensive drug distribution activities, illustrating a robust legal framework geared towards combatting drug-related offences. These operations not only aim to disrupt illicit trade but also prevent the social impacts that accompany drug trafficking.

The role of community collaboration has also been vital. Monique Wrench, Border Force Director of UK Operations, highlighted the commitment of Border Force officers to safeguard public health by intercepting harmful substances. As law enforcement continues to pursue assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act, the wider impact of these convictions could resonate, with efforts to reclaim financial gains that fund further criminal activities.

In closing, the dismantling of this drug trafficking operation not only signifies a notable success for Nottinghamshire Police but also sends a potent message to organised crime networks: that law enforcement agencies will remain vigilant in their pursuit of justice. As they continue to work collaboratively, achieving such milestones is critical for enhancing community safety and reducing the prevalence of drug-related crime.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/news/nottinghamshire/news/news/2024/may/82-year-combined-sentence-for-drug-gang-that-flooded-streets-with-drugs/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[5]](https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/news/nottinghamshire/news/news/2024/september/drug-gang-members-jailed-for-over-85-years-combined/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpqjl0ew0w4o)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/drug-gang-members-who-plagued-8308969), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpqjl0ew0w4o)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-59738949)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://www.newarkadvertiser.co.uk/news/organised-crime-group-members-locked-up-over-drug-supply-con-9375247/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14688757/Drugs-smuggling-gang-weight-loss-shakes-jailed.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/news/nottinghamshire/news/news/2024/may/82-year-combined-sentence-for-drug-gang-that-flooded-streets-with-drugs/> - In May 2024, Nottinghamshire Police announced that a drug gang responsible for flooding Nottingham's streets with cocaine, cannabis, and other drugs had been sentenced to a combined 82 years in prison. The gang operated between July 2019 and December 2021, using multiple mobile phone lines to advertise and sell Class A and B drugs. The operation led to the seizure of significant quantities of drugs and cash, with gang leader Aquil Choudry receiving a sentence of ten years and ten months. The investigation was a collaborative effort involving various police departments and aimed to dismantle organized crime groups in the area.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpqjl0ew0w4o> - In August 2024, BBC News reported on the sentencing of ten men involved in a 'highly sophisticated' drug trafficking operation between Manchester and Nottingham. The group was found to be moving vast quantities of cocaine, heroin, and cannabis, and possessed several firearms. The sentencing hearing at Nottingham Crown Court lasted three days, with Craig Moran, a major figure in gun crime in Nottingham in the 2000s, receiving a 24-year prison sentence. The operation highlighted the extensive efforts by law enforcement to combat organized drug trafficking and associated violence.
4. <https://www.nottinghampost.com/news/nottingham-news/drug-gang-members-who-plagued-8308969> - In March 2023, Nottinghamshire Live reported that members of a drug gang who 'plagued Nottinghamshire streets' had been jailed for a combined 166 years. The operation involved 18 conspirators who were sentenced at Nottingham Crown Court. The gang was involved in the distribution of Class A and B drugs, and the lengthy sentences underscored the severity of their crimes and the commitment of law enforcement to tackling organized drug trafficking in the region.
5. <https://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/news/nottinghamshire/news/news/2024/september/drug-gang-members-jailed-for-over-85-years-combined/> - In September 2024, Nottinghamshire Police announced that nine individuals involved in a violent turf war between two drug gangs in Nottingham had been jailed for more than 85 years combined. The gang leader, Tremayne McKenzie, was sentenced to 20 years and three months in prison. The operation, known as Operation Haversack, focused on dismantling organized crime groups and preventing further harm to the community. The investigation was a collaborative effort involving various police teams and aimed to address the link between drug trafficking and violence.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-59738949> - In December 2021, BBC News reported on the sentencing of a drugs gang that targeted young people in Nottingham. The group, led by brothers Jamil and Shakeel Amin, had been operating since 2018, selling Class A and B drugs to city revellers. The operation was uncovered through the seizure of a mobile phone belonging to one of the members, leading to covert surveillance and the eventual arrest and sentencing of the gang members. The case highlighted the efforts of law enforcement to protect vulnerable individuals from drug exploitation.
7. <https://www.newarkadvertiser.co.uk/news/organised-crime-group-members-locked-up-over-drug-supply-con-9375247/> - In July 2024, the Newark Advertiser reported on the sentencing of six men involved in a conspiracy to supply Class A drugs between Manchester and Nottinghamshire. The operation, which ran between June 2022 and January 2023, led to the supply and distribution of significant amounts of cocaine and heroin in Nottinghamshire. The extensive police investigation focused on two organized crime groups, resulting in the conviction and sentencing of the individuals involved. The case underscored the ongoing efforts by law enforcement to combat drug trafficking and organized crime in the region.