# Six Semi-Professional Footballers Jailed for £260 Million Cocaine Operation



Six semi-professional footballers have been jailed for a combined total of 104 years for running a large-scale cocaine operation valued at £260 million. The network, led by 26-year-old Luke Skeete, was dismantled after police stopped him with eight kilograms of Class A drugs in his van. The group, linked via a secure messaging app, included Shaquille Hippolyte-Patrick, Jamarl Joseph, Adam Pepara, Andrew Harewood, and Melchi Emanuel-Williamson.

The criminal activities involved the distribution of 2.7 tonnes of high-grade cocaine across the UK from storage units in Acton and Chiswick, West London. Skeete's arrest in September 2022 led to the discovery of 123kg of cocaine and 224kg of ketamine. Subsequent investigations, including forensic analysis of Skeete's mobile phone and extensive review of CCTV footage, enabled authorities to gather significant evidence against the group.

At Isleworth Crown Court, Skeete was sentenced to 13 years and one month, Hippolyte-Patrick received 18 years and nine months, Joseph was given 17 years and six months, Pepara received 24 years, Harewood was sentenced to 16 years and one month, and Emanuel-Williamson received 14 years. Detective Constable Janes highlighted that the evidence collected was compelling enough for all members to plead guilty to conspiracy charges.