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Drug addict caught on camera selling heroin

Published Date: 21 November 2008 By Rob Middleton



Gary Blyde has been jailed

A drug addict who sold heroin to an undercover police officer during a covert operation in Northampton has been jailed for three years.

Gary Blyde, aged 48, was filmed with secret cameras and microphones when he agreed to sell small deals of the class A drug to an officer posing as an addict.

Northampton Crown Court heard how the officer, known as Jo, was deployed in Northampton town centre to target drug dealers. Jo Spicer, prosecuting, said the officer obtained the phone number of Blyde's son and rang it in August to arrange to buy heroin.

But Blyde himself turned up to carry out the £10 deal when they met in St Paul's Road, Semilong, and handed over 0.16 grammes of the drug.

Over the next week, Blyde met the officer a further three times, at The Bear pub in Northampton and in Semilong, to supply single £10 deals of heroin.

Covert surveillance captured each deal on both film and audio, so when Blyde was confronted with the evidence in police interview, he said: "You've got me bang at it so there's no need to deny it".

Blyde, of Agnes Road, Semilong, who admitted four offences of supplying class A drugs, was arrested as part of Operation Metro, an undercover test purchase crackdown on dealers.

Passing sentence, Judge Peter Morrell described him as a persistent long-term offender who had been committing crimes all of his adult life.

He added: "It will come as no surprise to someone with your experience of the criminal justice system that you are going to receive a prison sentence today. The only issue is how long.

"I accept you are near the bottom of the chain, however, you involved your son so that cancels that one out and that you have not served a sentence of any length before."

Richard Holloway, defending, said Blyde has been using heroin for the past 14 years and had now been an addict for over a decade.

He said: "He was helping out his son and got nothing out of it but to get funding for his

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habit.

"There have been periods of abstinence in the past when he has gone abroad but, sadly, when he comes back to Northampton he falls back into old habits."

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