



DECEMBER 2007 - SUMMARY

From the reports recorded by GCN, 48 victims were killed in gun attacks in England and Wales and 5 died in Scotland during 2007. Another five people were shot dead during operations by armed police officers.

- **Gun Deaths and Injuries** - During late December three men died after being shot in incidents in Newtown (Birmingham), Hartcliffe (Bristol) and Southwark (south London). Another man died when he was shot by police officers after he had threatened a member of the public with an Uzi-style weapon in Stansted (Kent).
- Two police officers were shot and injured during December (see below).
- In London a teenager was injured when he was shot in Shepherd's Bush and another teenager recovered after being seriously injured in a shooting in Wandsworth. A 16-year-old was shot in both legs in Kirkdale (Merseyside).
- A man received serious injuries in a gun attack in Smethwick (West Midlands) and a man was in hospital after being shot in Toxteth (Merseyside). Three men were seriously injured when they were shot in a pub in Congleton (Cheshire). A man was shot in the buttocks in Grange Town (Teesside).
- **Police - During a month in which an inquest concluded that a police officer in Shrewsbury had been unlawfully killed by a man armed with a legally-owned gun, which he owned despite previous convictions, police officers were exposed to a number of situations involving firearms.**
- Officers shot dead a man who had threatened a member of the public with an Uzi-style military rifle in Stansted, Kent (see above).
- Police officers were fired at in a number of incidents. A female officer was hit in the leg after responding to reports of a robbery at a pub in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire) (two men have been arrested) and a male officer was shot during a surveillance operation in New Cross Road (south east London) (two men have been arrested). A man was charged with attempted murder after a gun was fired at an officer in Ardwick (Greater Manchester). A police officer had a gun pointed at him when a car was stopped in Didcot (Oxfordshire) and another officer was threatened when four people were arrested after a robbery in Westhoughton (see below).
- **Armed Hold-Ups and Assaults** - Three men armed with a shotgun and a knife robbed a bank in Little Lever (Bolton). A shot was fired during a ram raid on a bank in Cradley Heath (West Midlands).
- There were robberies and attempted robberies in which guns were allegedly used at supermarkets in West Didsbury and Westhoughton (four people were arrested) (both in Greater Manchester), an off licence in Wigan, a convenience store in Bromsgrove (Worcestershire) and bookmakers in St Helens (Merseyside) and Bloxwich (West Midlands). A service station was robbed by a man armed with a knife and a handgun in Hopwood (Worcestershire). A woman police officer was injured after two men robbed a pub in Bamber Bridge (Lancashire) (see above).

- A masked gang stole cash from a motorist in Whitefield (Lancashire). A man was pistol whipped and robbed of his jacket and money by a man in Rushden (Northamptonshire). A gang threatened a man walking home in Wisbech (Cambridgeshire) and a pizza delivery man was robbed at gunpoint in Hindley Green (Wigan).
- Masked burglars broke into a house in Hesketh Bank (Lancashire) but fled empty handed. A man was tied up and threatened at his home with a handgun by a gang in Woodhouse Park (Greater Manchester). A teenage boy had two guns held to his head at his home in Thornton Heath (south London) by a gang who stole his puppy.
- **Other Incidents** - Shots were fired at houses in Longsight (Manchester) and Maryhill (Glasgow), and a window was damaged by a shot fired at a house in Rushden (Northamptonshire). Gunshots were also fired at a pizza shop in Dovecot (Merseyside).
- A gang of up to 25 masked men carrying guns was seen patrolling streets in two areas of Greater Manchester (Moss Side and Whalley Range).
- A man has appeared in court charged with possession of a firearm after incidents in Jedburgh (Scottish Borders). Armed police took part in a major search in Annan (Dumfries & Galloway) for a man wanted for firearms offences.
- **Thefts and Gun Finds** - A replica of a M16 assault rifle was stolen from a house in Madeley (Shropshire). An air rifle was among items stolen during a spate of burglaries in Ripley (Derbyshire).
- Police recovered a firearm and ammunition during raids in Carlisle. Police made three arrests after a shotgun and a military-style rifle were found at a property in Huyton (Merseyside). A shotgun and ammunition were recovered from a garden in Lydgate (Oldham) (four men were arrested).
- Police seized a gun and heroin from a property in the Black Isle. A semi-automatic machine gun, cannabis and other drugs were recovered during a police raid on a property in Ramsgate (Kent). A Taser gun and cannabis were recovered by police from a property in Houghton Regis (Bedfordshire). An air rifle belonging to a former tenant was found at a property in Weston-super-Mare (Somerset) filled with drugs, faeces and rubbish.
- A woman was arrested after police found a prohibited stun gun under a bed at her home in Epping (Essex).
- **Guns Used in Crime** - A report revealed that the gun used in the attempted murder of a female police officer in Nottingham in 2006 was stolen from a British military base or smuggled from Afghanistan or Iraq. Military police have launched Operation Plunder to prevent soldiers smuggling weapons and ammunition from Afghanistan and Iraq into Britain.
- The legacy of convicted father and son William Greenwood and Mitchell Greenwood who were jailed in 2004 for supplying deactivated guns with instructions and kits for their conversion to live firearms was reported by *The Observer*. Guns from the two men have been traced to at least 65 crime scenes.
- **Convictions** (see also **Imitation Guns** and **Airgun**) - Two brothers face life sentences after being convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot in Lemington (Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

- Three people were jailed for terms of between four and nine years for their part in a fake kidnap plot involving an attempt to extort £300,000. The two men involved had firearms, a 9mm gun and a sawn-off shotgun.
- A man from Southall (west London) was jailed for five years after pleading guilty to several charges of firearms and drugs possession.
- A man was given a 12-month suspended jail sentence after a pump-action shotgun, prohibited in Britain, was found in a military cabinet at his home in St Judes, Plymouth. He was also ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work in the community.
- **Airguns** - A 16-year-old was shot in the head with a pellet gun in Cwmbran (two people have been arrested and two air weapons recovered). Two elderly women were hit by airgun pellets in separate incidents in West Moors (Dorset).
- A woman who died after losing control of her car near Basildon (Essex) may have been the victim of an airgun attack, according to her family.
- A van driver was stopped by a gang of teenagers in near Tranent (East Lothian) who then damaged his windscreen with a shot from an airgun.
- A man was arrested after cars and other property were shot at from a house in Kells (Cumbria).
- **Airguns (Convictions)**. A teenager is facing a life sentence after admitting murder for battering his victim in the face with the butt of an airgun and then shooting him three times in the head (see [August 2007 Incidents](#)) in Winchburgh (West Lothian).
- A 17-year-old who shot a 9-year-old in the head and a 16-year-old in the eyelid with an air pistol in Edinburgh was given 225 hours community service.
- A man who pointed an airgun at police and threatened to shoot them in Bathgate (West Lothian) has been jailed for four years.
- A man was given a six-month jail term for a firearm and public order offence after he held a .22 air pistol in one hand and a steam iron in the other and said he would kill two victims in a verbal confrontation in Hartlepool.
- A fourteen-year-old schoolboy who shot another teenager in the leg with an airgun in a street in Harlow (Essex) was placed under supervision of a probation officer for 18 months, a condition being that he attends offending behaviour work sessions.
- Two men have admitted shooting a man with an air rifle in Aberdeen.
- One of two men who terrified passers-by when violence flared between them at a Gloucester pub and were fined £1000 each and given 200 hours' unpaid community work had gone to his home and fetched an air rifle during the dispute.
- **Imitation Guns** - A man was arrested after police officers were confronted by a man with an imitation firearm making threats to kill in Leasowe (Wirral).
- Two teenage cousins faced charges of affray after an incident in Ribbleson (Lancashire) in which an imitation gun was allegedly involved.
- Paintball guns were used in attacks on a hotel in Tenbury Wells (Worcestershire) and on a police station and a car in Chippenham (Wiltshire).
- Police seized 31 BB guns at a shop in Oldham in a crackdown on BB and replica guns. Thirty two BB guns were seized by police and trading standards officials from a car boot sale in Rufforth (York).
- **Imitation Guns (Convictions)** - A 17-year-old girl and two men have been jailed after a fellow employee of the girl's was robbed at gunpoint in

Belvedere, south London. Police found an imitation gun at a flat associated with the two men.

- A man has been detained for possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence after an attack on a school minibus in Bradford. He is to be transferred to a hospital to be assessed by a psychiatrist.
- A man admitted a number of offences after firing two shots from a replica pistol from his car in Dumbarton.
- A pensioner was sentenced to a suspended six months prison sentence after he fired an imitation firearm at youngsters near his garden in Stratford-upon-Avon (Warwickshire).
- **Incidents Involving Animals** - Gun attacks on animals reported in December included the killing of two pigeons at an allotment in Gorleston (Norfolk), the shooting dead of a dog in Salford, the death of two swans shot with an airgun in Inchinnan (Renfrewshire) and injuries to a number of cats in attacks with air rifles and, in one instance, a BB gun.

GUN INCIDENTS – DECEMBER 2007

ENGLAND

Telegraph, 31 December 2007

A 20-year-old who fled after being shot in an incident in **Southwark**, south London, was found dead in a communal garden the next day.

BBC, 31 December 2007

A man is recovering in hospital after an apparent targeted shooting in **Toxteth**, Liverpool. He had a gunshot wound to the shoulder. A car with suspected bullet holes in it was found abandoned. Police say that the victim is not cooperating with inquiries.

BBC, 31 December 2007

Police found a shotgun and a military-style rifle when they executed a warrant at a property in **Huyton**, Merseyside. A teenage girl, a man and a woman were arrested and then released on bail pending further inquiries.

BBC, 31 December 2007

A man has been arrested by police investigating the shooting of a woman officer during a robbery at a pub in **Bamber Bridge**, Preston. The officer received 12 pellets in her leg and was treated in hospital. A second man has been arrested (*Press Association*, 1 January 2008).

Observer, 30 December 2007

It has been reported that a gun (a Browning 9mm pistol) stolen from a British military base or smuggled from Afghanistan or Iraq was used in the attempted murder of a policewoman in **Nottingham** in February 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). The National Ballistics Intelligence Programme has identified a number of 'serious crimes' involving military weapons that have fallen into the hands of criminals. Military police have launched Operation Plunder to prevent soldiers smuggling weapons and ammunition from Afghanistan and Iraq into Britain.

BBC, 30 December 2007

A man who reportedly threatened a member of the public with an "Uzi-style" sub-machine gun was shot dead by armed police officers in **Stansted**, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Police challenged the man and fired two shots. The incident will be investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. The incident is being reported to have been "suicide by cop" (*Telegraph*, 31 December 2007).

BBC, 30 December 2007

Four men have been charged in connection with a robbery at a supermarket in **Westhoughton**, near Bolton. A traffic officer was threatened with a handgun in **Atherton** following a high-speed pursuit of a car.

Worcester News, 27 December 2007

Diners at a hotel in **Tenbury Wells** were shocked when they were showered with glass in a drive-by shooting with a **paintball gun**.

Wigan Today, 27 December 2007

A pizza delivery man was robbed at gunpoint in **Hindley Green**. He was ordered to hand over his takings by a man wielding what was described as a black automatic pistol.

Wiltshire Times & Chippenham News, 27 December 2007

Two teenagers have been arrested on suspicion of shooting at a police station and an officer's car with a **paintball gun** in **Chippenham**. One car window and an office window were hit. A paintball gun and pellets were recovered.

Stratford-upon-Avon Herald, 27 December 2007

John Homes was sentenced to six months in prison suspended for 18 months for firing an airgun at a group of youngsters playing football in a park in **Stratford** near his garden fence. The 78-year-old escaped being jailed because of his poor health. He had admitted possessing an **imitation firearm**, a ball-bearing-firing Walther CP38, with intent to cause fear of violence.

South Manchester Reporter, 27 December 2007

A man armed with a handgun stole cash during a supermarket robbery in **West Didsbury**. He approached the till and pushed the cashier out of the way, grabbing a quantity of cash.

Bromsgrove Standard, 27 December 2007

A convenience store in **Bromsgrove** was raided by two robbers, a man and a woman, who escaped with around £300. It is thought that they were armed with an **imitation gun**.

BBC, 27 December 2007

A man who died in **Hartcliffe**, Bristol, was shot police have confirmed. Originally they believed the victim was stabbed. Four men have been remanded in custody charged with murder.

Times, 26 December 2007

A 17-year-old was fighting for his life after being shot in the face in **Wandsworth**, south London. He was sitting in a parked car at the time of the shooting. The boy's condition has improved and he has now left hospital (*Wimbledon Guardian*, 27 December 2007).

Daily Mirror, 26 December 2007

The family of a woman who died when her car crashed off the A127 at **Dunton**, near Basildon in Essex, have blamed an **airgun** attack for the crash. Another driver said his window was smashed by an airgun pellet as he went under the bridge where the woman lost control of her car. Police confirmed that people have reported cars being hit with stones, pellets and branches.

Express & Star, 24 December 2007

Armed robbers threatened staff with a handgun and baseball bat before getting away with the takings during a raid at a betting shop in **Bloxwich**, Walsall. The men escaped with a 'substantial' amount of money.

BBC, 24 December 2007

A man brandishing a gun escaped with a quantity of cash from a bookmakers in **St Helens**, Merseyside.

BBC, 24 December 2007

A man has been charged with attempted murder after a gun was fired at a police officer in **Ardwick**, Manchester. A revolver and a bulletproof vest were later found nearby. The man has also been charged with possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life.

BBC, 23 December 2007

A man who was shot in the chest outside of a pub in **Newtown**, Birmingham, has died. Several shots were fired after a disturbance in the pub which spilled out onto the street.

BBC, 23 December 2007

A police officer was shot during a surveillance operation in **New Cross Road**, south east London. He was in an unmarked police car, following a suspect as part of an investigation into crime in nightclubs. Two men, aged 20 and 19 have been arrested, one at the scene of the shooting.

Wigan Today, 21 December 2007

Two women were threatened at gunpoint during a raid at their off-licence in **Wigan**. The robbers stole an undisclosed quantity of cash.

The Citizen (Gloucestershire), 21 December 2007

Two men, David Gale and James Smith, who terrified passers-by when violence flared between them at a **Gloucester** pub in April 2007 have been fined £1000 each and given 200 hours' unpaid community work. They were also sentenced to a community order with supervision for 18 months. Gale had gone to his home and fetched an **air rifle** during the dispute.

BBC, 21 December 2007

A replica of the American forces M16 assault rifle was among items stolen from a house in **Madeley**, Telford. The gun was described as a rare **air rifle**.

Evening Telegraph (Derby), 20 December 2007

An **air rifle** was among items stolen from house in the **Ripley**, Derbyshire, during a spate of robberies.

Wimbledon Guardian, 19 December 2007

A teenage boy had two guns held to his head by a gang of teenage robbers who burst into his home in **Thornton Heath**, south London, in order to steal his puppy. His family are being assisted in their search for the puppy by doglost.co.uk.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 19 December 2007

Paul Bourn, who was obsessed with the wife of his victim, and his brother Max Bourn face life sentences after being convicted of the attempted murder of a man who was shot four times at close range at his home in **Lemington**, Newcastle, in September 2006 (see [Incidents](#)). Both men were found guilty of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm and conspiracy to commit murder. Max Bourn shot the victim with a .22 weapon whilst his brother was in the house with the victim and his wife. Another man who denied conspiracy to murder was cleared.

Lancashire Evening Post, 18 December 2007

Two teenage cousins have been granted conditional bail after facing charges of affray during an incident in **Ribbleton**, Preston. One of them is accused of threatening a man with an **imitation firearm**, the other with possession of a handgun.

BBC, 18 December 2007

Three men were in hospital with serious injuries after being shot in a pub in **Congleton**, Cheshire. The men had spent the evening together and it is believed that one of the men shot the others before turning the gun on himself.

Weston & Somerset Mercury, 17 December 2007

An **air rifle** belonging to a former tenant was found at a property in **Weston-super-Mare** by police responding after two young girls were reported to have been burned with cigarettes and neglected for more than seven months. The house was filled with drugs, faeces and rubbish.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 17 December 2007

A gunman fired shot at a house in a residential street in **Rushden**. A window was damaged, although no-one was injured or threatened.

Evening Chronicle (Newcastle), 17 December 2007

The paper has reported that Andrew Ewels, 20, has admitted firing an **air rifle** in **New Hartley** near Blyth in August 2006. A pellet hit a 12-year-old in the head as he got off a bus. The pellet narrowly missed blinding him and lodged just centimetres from his eye. Ewels was fined £70. The boy's mother had called for air rifles to be banned.

BBC, 17 December 2007

A man has been arrested after reports of cars and other property being shot at from a house window in **Kells** in Whitehaven, Cumbria. Police seized an **air rifle**.

BBC, 16 December 2007

A man was injured in the buttocks when he was approached and shot by two men on a motorbike in **Grange Town**, Teesside. A local man has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder.

News & Star, 15 December 2007

Police who raided more than 10 homes and arrested a number of people in **Carlisle** and north Cumbria recovered a firearm and ammunition.

Manchester Evening News, 15 December 2007

A man was tied up and threatened with a handgun by a gang of masked men who broke into his home in **Woodhouse Park**, Manchester. The gang demanded cash and car keys before tying his wrists and ankles together.

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 15 December 2007

Jackie Reed was given a six-month jail term for a firearm and public order offence but was released as he had already served five and a half months on remand. Reed held a **.22 air pistol** in one hand and a steam iron in the other and said he would kill two victims in a verbal confrontation in June 2007 in **Hartlepool**. Reed admitted possession of a firearm when prohibited.

BBC, 15 December 2007

A man was seriously injured in a suspected gun attack in **Smethwick**, West Midlands. He was in a stable condition in hospital. It is believed he was injured after answering the door to a caller or callers who shot him.

Oxford Mail, 14 December 2007

A police officer had a gun pointed at him when a car was stopped in **Didcot**, Oxfordshire, after it was seen to be driven erratically. The gunman disappeared. Pupils were locked into two local schools during the subsequent search for the man but he was not found. Metropolitan Police detectives have now been called into the hunt for the gunman (**BBC**, 16 December 2007).

The Herald (Plymouth), 14 December 2007

Graham Smith was given a 12-month suspended jail sentence after a pump-action shotgun prohibited in Britain was found in a military cabinet at his home in **St Judes**. Police had been called to the house in June 2007 after reports of damage caused to vehicles and of someone shooting pigeons with an airgun. When police searched his home they found the shotgun with a shortened barrel, an **air rifle**, an **air pistol** and 32 cartridges of ammunition. Smith, who had no firearm certificate, was a "hunting enthusiast" who had brought the shotgun in Portugal and was merely keeping it in Plymouth. His intention was to take the weapons back to Portugal. He pleaded guilty to one count of possession of a prohibited gun, two counts of possession of a firearm without a certificate, and one of possession of ammunition without a certificate. Smith was also ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work in the community.

BBC, 14 December 2007

PC Richard Grey who was shot by Peter Medlicott in **Shrewsbury** in May 2007 (see [Incidents](#)) was unlawfully killed an inquest has ruled. Medlicott, who had a gun licence, committed suicide. West Mercia Police have been criticised for not revoking Medlicott's gun licence earlier and the coroner has recommended that police change their licensing practices. Medlicott had three previous convictions, two offences for disorderly behaviour and one for drink-driving and he was also arrested for assault in April 2007 yet he was allowed to keep guns.

BBC, 14 December 2007

Thirty two **BB guns** and three crossbows were seized by police and trading standards officials from a car boot sale in **Rufforth**, York. The guns were described as extremely convincing replicas.

Bexley Times, 13 December 2007

A 17-year-old girl, who cannot be named, and two men have been jailed after a fellow employee of the girl's was robbed at gunpoint in **Belvedere**, south London, in June 2007. Jonathan Hayward and Francis Little were tipped off by the girl and stole £3,500. Police found an **imitation gun** at a flat associated with the two men. All three pleaded guilty: Hayward and Little were sentenced to four and a half years and three and a half years respectively. The girl was jailed for 12 months. Hayward, who had previously been jailed and released on licence, after being caught in possession of a firearm was ordered to serve the remaining eight years of his licence concurrently.

BBC, 13 December 2007

Shots were fired at a house in **Longsight**, Manchester. Two shots hit the front door and two hit the front window.

BBC, 12 December 2007

A teenager is in a stable condition after being shot in **Shepherds Bush**, west London. Another male received minor gunshot wounds. A man has been arrested in connection with the shooting.

BBC, 11 December 2007

A man was arrested by armed police in **Leasowe**, Wirral, after they were confronted by the man with a firearm. He was arrested on suspicion of making threats to kill and possession of an **imitation firearm** with intent to cause fear of violence.

BBC, 11 December 2007

Hina Uroog, Kashif Ahmed and Liaqat Khan have been jailed for four years and nine months, nine years and six-and-a-half years, respectively, for their part in a fake kidnap plot in which Uroog attempted to extort £300,000 from her boyfriend. The plot was uncovered by police who set up a sting operation in **Longsight**, Manchester. Ahmed ran off when he saw the officers and threw a loaded Russian-made 9mm gun into a garden. Khan was crouching behind a van and a sawn-off shotgun was found hidden under vehicle. Uroog was jailed for

This is Lancashire, 10 December 2007

A masked gang stole cash from a motorist in **Whitefield**. The man was approached by three men, two of whom appeared to be carrying handguns. One of the gang opened the passenger door and demanded cash which the victim gave them.

Daily Mirror, 10 December 2007

A disabled woman was arrested after a burglary at her bungalow in **Epping** because she kept a stun gun under her bed. A stun gun is a prohibited weapon. Essex Police say it was considered appropriate to deal with the offence by way of a police caution.

Bedford Today, 10 December 2007

A Taser gun, £3000 cash and a large quantity of cannabis have been recovered by police during a raid in **Houghton Regis**. A man was arrested.

BBC, 10 December 2007

Masked burglars broke into a house in **Hesketh Bank**, Lancashire, and assaulted three people in the kitchen with a hammer and a gun. One of the occupants was hit on the head with the gun. The offenders made off without any money or property.

Observer, 9 December 2007

According to an article in *The Observer* inquiries into the whereabouts of 3000 weapons supplied by convicted father and son William Greenwood and Mitchell Greenwood (the two were jailed in January 2004, see [Incidents](#)) have revealed that the weapons have fallen into the hands of paedophile rings, drug cartels and extortion rackets. The **deactivated guns** were sold by the men along with instructions and kits so they could be modified to convert them to live firearms. A cache of 100 such weapons was recently traced to a home in rural **Devon**, and guns supplied by the Greenwoods have been recovered from at least 8 murder scenes, gangland shootings and a loyalist paramilitary arms cache. Guns from the two men have been traced to at least 65 crime scenes. The article highlighted the ongoing problems with deactivated firearms which are reactivated to become live weapons.

Lancashire Evening Post, 8 December 2007

A man described how he thought he had been shot when the car in which he was travelling in **Avenham**, Preston, came under fire in June 2007 (see [Incidents](#)). A bullet hole was later discovered in the boot of the car and cartridges recovered from the street. Two men are charged with violent disorder, having a firearm or imitation firearm to commit that offence and possessing a firearm or **imitation firearm** to cause fear of violence. The trial continues.

Kent News, 7 December 2007

An MP5 semi-automatic machine gun was seized in a raid by armed police on a house in **Ramsgate**. A large quantity of cannabis and other drugs were also seized. Three men were arrested.

Daily Echo, 7 December 2007

In separate incidents **airgun** pellets were fired at two elderly women as they walked along a street in **West Moors**, Dorset. A 74-year-old was shot in her bottom and an 88-year-old was shot in her left leg and needed hospital treatment.

BBC, 7 December 2007

A shot was fired during a ram raid by a gang on a bank in **Cradley Heath**, West Midlands. Three robbers drove a car into the front of the bank. No-one was hurt.

Harlow Herald, 6 December 2007

A fourteen-year-old schoolboy shot another teenager in the leg with an **airgun** he bought on the internet. A court heard that the 16-year-old victim has been left "very depressed" after the attack which took place in a street in **Harlow**, Essex, in January 2007. The accused admitted charges of unlawful wounding and possessing a firearm and was placed under supervision of a probation officer for 18 months, a condition being that he attends offending behaviour work sessions.

Daily Mail, 6 December 2007

A postmaster and his wife who were robbed by robbers who threatened them with a handgun and a knife and then stole £11,000 from their shop in **Lowestoft**, Suffolk, in September 2007, were instructed by Post Office management to pay back the lost cash because the amount of cash stored in the till exceeded guidelines, but the Post Office has now announced that the claim had been withdrawn.

BBC, 6 December 2007

Ahmed Osman Hersi from **Southall**, west London, has been jailed for five years after pleading guilty to several charges of firearms and drugs possession. A police operation targeting a gang run by Hersi recovered drugs, £300,000 cash along with two machine pistols, five semi-automatic handguns and one Brocock revolver.

Telegraph & Argus (Bradford), 5 December 2007

A man has been detained for possessing an imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence in July 2007. The court was told how a teaching assistant heard a "ping" on the window of the school minibus she was driving in **Bradford**. Boys on the bus confirmed it had been shot with a **BB gun**. The accused man was carrying the black plastic handgun with him as he walked to his mother's and admitted shooting the minibus, claiming that the people in it would have realised it was not a real gun. Gary Marshman has been remanded in custody and is expected to be transferred to a hospital to be assessed by a psychiatrist. No date has been fixed for his sentence hearing (*Telegraph & Argus*, 7 December 2007).

Evening Gazette (Middlesbrough), 5 December 2007

A former policeman has cleared his named after his convictions for assaulting two youths were quashed. He said that the youths had fired an **air rifle** at him in **Lingdale**, Cleveland, in August 2006. He acted to prevent youths shooting the gun at him and his land, to protect himself and his animals and to prevent crime, the judge ruled.

BBC, 5 December 2007

A gang of up to 25 masked men, carrying guns and dressed all in black, was seen patrolling the streets in **Moss Side** and **Whalley Range** in Manchester by a number of witnesses, according to police.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 4 December 2007

Of 19 firearms recovered by police in the north of **Northamptonshire** between April and October five were imitation or **replica guns**, five were **ball-bearing guns**, five were **air weapons**, one was a **toy gun** and another a builder's sealant gun.

Evening Telegraph (Northampton), 4 December 2007

A man has been pistol-whipped by an armed robber who threatened him with a gun in a street in **Rushden**. The robber stole the victim's jacket and £20.

BBC, 4 December 2007

A gang of four threatened a man walking home in **Wisbech**, Cambridgeshire. A gun was held to the man's head as they went through his pockets to find his wallet.

BBC, 4 December 2007

Three men armed with a shotgun and a knife fled with cash after holding up a bank in **Little Lever** near Bolton. Nobody was injured in the raid.

BBC, 4 December 2007

Police seized 31 **BB guns** at a shop in **Oldham**, Greater Manchester, as part of a crackdown on BB and replica guns which look like genuine weapons. They hope the seizure will remind traders of legislation which makes it an offence to manufacture, import or sell realistic imitation guns.

Liverpool Daily Post, 3 December 2007

A 16-year-old boy was shot in both legs in **Kirkdale**. He was taken to hospital with gunshot wounds but police do not believe that his injuries are life-threatening.

Liverpool Daily Post, 3 December 2007

Gunshots were fired at a pizza shop in **Dovecot**. Damage was caused to the front window of the premises but there were no injuries.

Bromsgrove Standard, 3 December 2007

A cashier at a service station in **Hopwood** was threatened with a knife and a handgun during an armed robbery. The robber told the attendant to empty the taking from the till. He also took an undisclosed amount of cigarettes.

BBC, 3 December 2007

A shotgun and ammunition have been recovered by police from a garden in **Lydgate**, Oldham. The find followed reports of a disturbance. Four men have been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm.

Lancashire Evening Post, 1 December 2007

Police investigated 28 "firearms" incidents in **Lancashire** schools between April 2006 and March 2007. Police and school chiefs say they do not relate to "serious offences" but unions have expressed concerns at the figures. The incidents appear to have involved **ball bearing guns** and **toy guns**.

SCOTLAND

BBC, 19 December 2007

David Scullion fired two shots from a **replica pistol** from his car in **Dumbarton** in September 2007 and was then chased by police reaching speeds of up to 130 mph on the A82 before he was caught at **Luss**. He admitted dangerous driving, recklessly discharging a firearm, assaulting police officers and vandalising a police car. He had brandished a sword at police officers. Sentencing was deferred.

BBC, 13 December 2007

Seventeen-year-old Otu Nylam shot a 9-year-old in the head with an **air pistol** in **Edinburgh** in November 2006 and then shot a 16-year-old in the eyelid. Police found a BB gun and pellets at Nylam's flat. He has been sentenced to 225 hours community service.

BBC, 13 December 2007

Shots were fired from a car at a house in **Maryhill**, Glasgow. No-one was injured in the shooting.

Evening News (Edinburgh), 12 December 2007

A driver on his way home from work was forced to stop his by a gang of teenagers near **Tranent**, East Lothian. One of the gang pulled out an **airgun** and fired a shot which left a ten-inch crack in the windscreen.

BBC, 10 December 2007

A man has appeared in court in private on petition charged with possession of a firearm after incidents in **Jedburgh**.

BBC, 7 December 2007

Armed police took part in a major search in **Annan**, Dumfries and Galloway, for a man wanted on a petition warrant for firearms offences.

Evening Express, 4 December 2007

A man told a court how he was shot by an **airgun** and then threatened with having his head chopped off with a samurai sword. The incident took place in **Aberdeen**. Two men are accused of attacking the victim and repeatedly shooting him with an air rifle. One of the men faces a second charge of stealing an air rifle and pellets. David Adamson has now admitted a reduced charge of shooting the victim, brandishing a sword at him and placing it against his neck, injuring him and scarring him for life. Lee Hutchison has admitted shooting the victim with an air rifle, repeatedly punching his head, injuring him and scarring him for life (*Press & Journal*, 5 December 2007).

BBC, 3 December 2007

Police seized a gun and heroin with a street value of £100,000 from a property on the **Black Isle**. The gun had been stolen during a break-in at a house in the Black Isle in December 2006. A man will appear in court.

WALES

ic Wales, 13 December 2007

A 16-year-old was shot in the head with a pellet gun in **Cwmbran**. He was taken to hospital where a pellet, which was embedded in his head, had to be removed during surgery. Although it was initially suggested that the incident took place in a street it was later reported to have occurred at a house and that the alleged offenders were known to the teenager. Two people have been arrested and two **air weapons** and ammunition were recovered from one of two houses searched by police (BBC, 14 December 2007).

INCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

Worcester News, 29 December 2007

A cat owner found her pet petrified and bleeding after it was shot with an **airgun** in **Droitwich**. A vet found a puncture wound to the back of her left leg and the pellet was removed during an operation.

Norwich Evening News, 13 December 2007

Two pigeons being kept in a shed on an allotment in **Gorleston**, Norfolk, have been killed with an **airgun**. Roofing was also damaged by air pellets.

BBC, 11 December 2007

A dog was shot dead in a street in the **Pendleton** area of Salford by a hooded youth seen holding a gun in its mouth.

News & Star, 10 December 2007

A vet had to put down a cat which is believed to have been shot in the face with an **airgun**. The animal was found horrifically injured and dying on the front doorstep of a house in **Carlisle**. The PETA Foundation, an animal charity, has sent special education packs to every school in the city in a bid to tackle the spate of airgun attacks on cats in Carlisle (*News & Star*, 18 December 2007).

Evening Times, 6 December 2007

An RSPCA worker found two swans shot at a pond in **Inchinnan**, Renfrewshire. The mating pair had multiple **airgun** pellets to the head. The male was already dead and the female had to be put down.

Hartlepool Mail, 4 December 2007

A cat was left in agony after being shot at close range with an **air rifle** in the Bakers Mead area of **Hartlepool**. Pins had to be placed in the cat's leg and a second operation was needed when the pins became dislodged.

BBC, 3 December 2007

A cat was shot in the stomach with a **BB gun** in **Carterton**, Oxfordshire. The pellet was removed by a vet. Her owners have been left with a £1000 vet bill.