



February 2025

'A Snapshot of the working life of PCSO Vicky Henderson'

Broken down horse box

I was sent to Norton Fitzwarren for a broken-down horse box. When I arrived the horse box was off the road in a layby. At first, I thought this was going to be a quick swap over of the vehicle that would be towing the horse box. I was wrong. On speaking with the owner of the horse, who had come up from Plymouth to use the equestrian place at Allerford. In order for the vehicle to be swapped over, they needed to take the horse out of the box, move the horse box, as the vehicle that was hitched to the box would not move. Then attach the working vehicle to the horse box. Then have the horse go back in the box. The broken-down vehicle would then need to be recovered. In order for the horse not to get spooked and bolt, I needed to shut the road in both directions. Thank you to all the drivers that switched their engines off. The horse had been in the box for over 4 hours so was not too keen on going back in, it took a couple of run ups, but eventually the horse went back in, and the road could be opened again.

Cannabis factory

On February 12th we were in pretty early to execute a drugs warrant in Wellington. I was there to reassure the other industrial units and members of the public alarmed by the amount of police in the area.

I was the last car in, the building was surrounded, and we had assistance from a drone covering from above.

As I parked, I noted two males jumping out of the window and on to a flat roof. I alerted the other units that were closer to the building. The males then went back through the window.

At this point a dog officer was requested.

I was then tasked with being on the containment, watching to ensure no one else came out of the window.

The team gained access to the building and searched the building. Three beds were found. No sign of any males.

The dog officer then joined our officers inside and searched the building with the dog, it was a rabbit warren of rooms. The only place that had not been searched at this point was the loft space. One of our officers went up a ladder and into the loft. The males were hiding but located quickly. The two males I had spotted earlier were arrested. On noting the third bed, officers went back up to search again and found a male hiding under a water tank. All were arrested and transported to custody.

The time had come to start documenting and searching what was inside the building. 424 cannabis plants were found inside. This equates to £500,000.

Two of the males were referred to a unit which deals with victims of modern slavery.

This was all part of Operation Mille. Warrants were executed across the country at 346 properties, resulting in 225 arrests and the seizure of more than 45,000 cannabis plants.

The operation was aimed at dismantling commercial scale cannabis grows in the region in order to disrupt the criminal networks responsible for the illegal drugs production and supply.

ITV news was there and filmed our officers entering the building. This was shown on ITV news.

Until next month

Take care.

Vicky

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