

Customs Rogues

[PDF version](#) [Video](#)

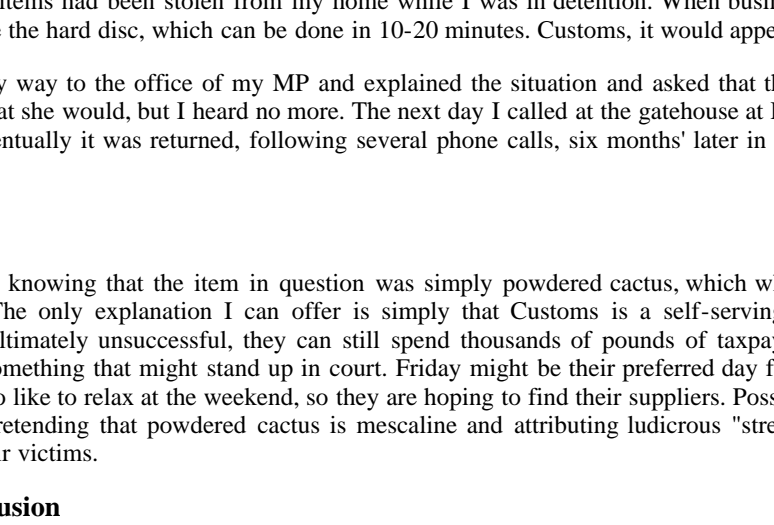
Describes the underhand and fraudulent methods used by HM Customs & Excise (now UK Border Agency) and Police to secure drug convictions for "mescaline" and how the BBC used a staged police photo which concealed the label to reiterate their lies.

Dawn Raid

At 7am on Friday 19th March 2010 I was awoken by three uniformed Customs officers, with three plain clothes policemen in an unmarked car in pursuit, and informed that I was being arrested for "importation of class A drugs". I almost collapsed in shock and presumed that some evil intentioned person had posted me something, or that the officers themselves were corrupt and that I would spend many years in prison. I was made to dress and then driven to a detention centre at Dover Customs by these three characters, without being given any reason for my arrest. Eventually I was accused of "importing mescaline" although no evidence was ever produced. (I had ordered some powdered cactus from Peru from a website over two years earlier, on 17th January 2008, which had never arrived and had obtained a refund on my card at the time.)

I was strip searched and placed in a cell for some five hours at the detention centre. Before being imprisoned I was asked "Have you ever tried to hang yourself?". The cell had no windows, no chair and no bed. My asthma and rhinitis medicines and my spectacles were confiscated. Prisoners have to lie on a plastic covered bench although sleep is impossible as there is nowhere to rest one's head. A fluorescent light was kept on permanently overhead which the staff refused to turn off. The only air came from a very noisy air conditioning system, which also made sleep impossible. Despite being a modern building there was not even a hand basin or soap provided, so if one had to use the toilet it would be unhygienic to eat afterwards.

I suffer with chest problems so they called a doctor, although I hadn't requested one. This was a Customs doctor rather than a regular one and he decided if and when I was allowed my medicines. I explained to him that I was being fitted up with importing stupidity after simply ordering some powdered cactus, but he asked to see my arms. After being unable to find any needle marks he demanded to know whether I used cocaine! I had already told him that I suffer bruising easily because I am a steroid dependent asthmatic, after he enquired about a mark on my chest, but despite this he squeezed my wrist very hard "to take my pulse" and left me with a nasty bruise (below).



I was later interviewed without a solicitor, which I had not requested, as they would no doubt use any excuse to detain me for longer. My request for a pen and paper at the interview was denied. I was later taken to Dover Police Station and released on bail in the afternoon. On arriving home I found that my computer and a number of other items had been stolen from my home while I was in detention. When businesses are investigated for fraud by the police, it is customary to simply clone the hard disc, which can be done in 10-20 minutes. Customs, it would appear, prefer the light fingered approach.

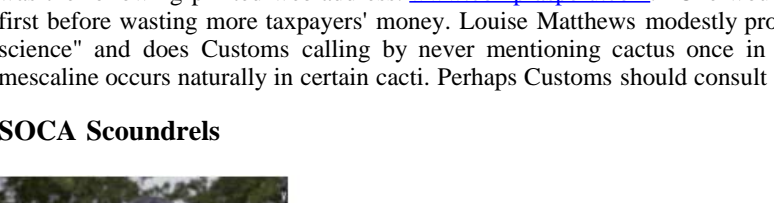
Possible Motive

So what was the motive for the raid knowing that the item in question was simply powdered cactus, which whatever its legal status, was unlikely to secure a conviction before a jury. The only explanation I can offer is simply that Customs is a self-serving bureaucracy which has to justify its existence. Even if a prosecution is ultimately unsuccessful, they can still spend thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money on the case. It was also a fishing expedition - hoping to find something that might stand up in court. Friday might be their preferred day for raids as they realise that most "drug users" are simply working people who like to relax at the weekend, so they are hoping to find their suppliers. Possibly Customs are attempting to inflate their "Class A" seizure figures by pretending that powdered cactus is mescaline and attributing ludicrous "street values" to it, without giving a damn about the career consequences for their victims.

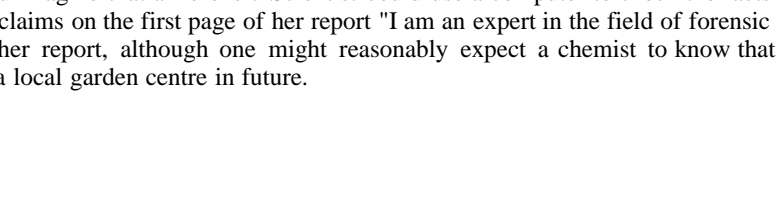
Police Deception and BBC Collusion

[Police seize hallucinogenic drugs from Edinburgh flat](#)
[Two arrested after Peruvian cactus seized in Newcastle](#)
(can also [download](#) in case BBC remove item)

The above two items report police arrests - including a 76 year old man. The police and the BBC have lied on two countshere: the items seized are powdered cactus, not mescaline, and the value is \$99 for 900g, not the £35,000 they claim for the 3.5kg seized in the Edinburgh case. These corrupt police and Customs officers could find themselves on a perjury charge should they repeat these allegations in court. The state controlled media displayed the staged police photo showing the "mescaline" and the packaging with the identifying label placed face down. Fortunately I was able to obtain a photo of the package face up:



Staged police "mescaline" photo with label face-down

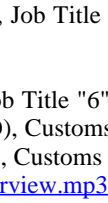
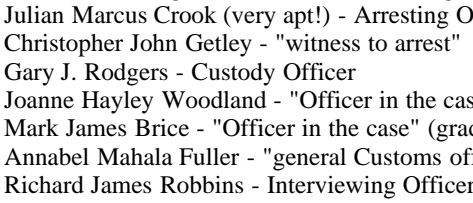
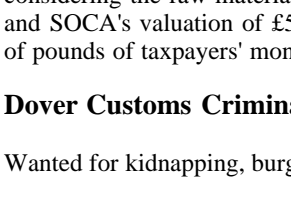


The truth revealed - cacti powder (*Echinopsis peruviana*)

Forensic Fraud

The packaging of the powdered cactus is shown above. The supplier's name, address, phone number and web site is clearly marked. A two minute search on [www.comprasperi.com](#) would confirm the item as [San Pedro cactus powder](#) and the cost as \$99. Most people would imagine that forensic science would be used to solve murder enquiries, but Customs have have such a huge budget that the powdered cactus, 30g of *Anadenanthera colubrina* seeds, 4g of magic mushrooms and 3g of DMT containing powder were all sent to London for forensic analysis. A further gram of DMT containing powder was later sent via Securicor! (P.16 of [Forensic Science Service](#) report.) On page 3 the report states "The plant material was analysed and a low level of mescaline was detected." In the notes on page 3 it states "The silver-coloured plastic packet had a label adhered to one side. This held the address for 'Andina Real SAC'. In the middle of the label were the words 'Compras Peru' and a picture of a tribal head. Below the tribal head was the following printed web address: [www.comprasperi.com](#)." One would imagine that a Forensic Scientist could use a computer to check the facts first before wasting more taxpayers' money. Louise Matthews modestly proclaims on the first page of her report "I am an expert in the field of forensic science" and does Customs calling by never mentioning cactus once in her report, although one might reasonably expect a chemist to know that mescaline occurs naturally in certain cacti. Perhaps Customs should consult a local garden centre in future.

SOCA Scoundrels



(SOCA logo)

Not content with mere forensic examination which conveniently never mentions the word cactus, Customs also consulted the "Expert Evidence Department" of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, no less. Section 6 of Director's Guidance Streamlined Process [MGS](#) gives their estimate of the value of the 900g of powdered cactus - from £5,364 to £13,410. This valuation would no doubt carry a long custodial sentence - in spite of the fact that they could have discovered the true value of \$99 online within minutes - simply by checking the printed web address on the label. Not content with one whopper, they went on to value the 30g of *Anadenanthera colubrina* seeds at between £180 and £451. On page 8 the [Forensic Science Service](#) report quoted the web site written on the seed packet ([www.herb-a-list.co.uk](#)). A quick search on this site would show the cost of 25g of these seeds as a mere £9.95. How they managed to apply these preposterous valuations will remain a mystery since SOCA have no contact names and they are [exempt from the Freedom of Information Act](#).

False Testimony

The valuation of the "mescaline" by Customs case officer Sarah Jane Wilson on page 18 of [Witness Statements.pdf](#) is nothing more than a tissue of lies, which could easily have landed me in jail without a good lawyer. The first deception is describing powdered cactus as mescaline when it clearly isn't. The second is to claim that it is "in a refined form" when it clearly isn't - powdering a dried cactus does not refine it. The reported [mescaline content in dried Echinopsis peruviana](#) is 1.2%. So 894g would contain 10.7g of mescaline. This would give between 21 and 53 doses of between 200 and 500mg (her dosage figures). At £3 - £5 per dose (her figures) this would give a "street value" of between £63 and £265 - rather a poor profit margin considering the raw material cost \$112.21 with shipping and even SOCA admit that it has no market value (P.17). Her valuation of £5,364 to £22,350 and SOCA's valuation of £5,364 to £13,410 is simply preposterous. It is a deplorable falsehood which has threatened my liberty and wasted thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money.

Dover Customs Criminals and their Accomplices Named and Shamed

Wanted for kidnapping, burglary, unlawful imprisonment and giving false evidence:

- Andrea Scott - "general Customs official", gave false evidence to magistrate to obtain search warrant
 - Julian Marcus Crook (very apt!) - Arresting Officer, Job Title "6", Criminal & Financial Investigation
 - Christopher John Getley - "witness to arrest"
 - Gary J. Rodgers - Custody Officer
 - Joanne Hayley Woodland - "Officer in the case", Job Title "6", Criminal & Financial Investigation, Customs burglar
 - Mark James Brice - "Officer in the case" (grade HO), Customs burglar
 - Annabel Mahala Fuller - "general Customs official", Customs burglar
 - Richard James Robbins - Interviewing Officer ([Interview.mp3](#)) - claims to be a UK Border Agency Officer although he had police ID
 - Katy Philpott - Interviewing Officer ([Interview.mp3](#)) - claims to be a UK Border Agency Officer although she had police ID
 - David Phillips - ("job" unknown)
 - Elizabeth Sharp - ("job" unknown)
 - P. Stockhall - "on call Review Officer"
 - Sarah Jane Wilson - "Charging Officer", "Case Officer", Criminal & Financial Investigation - see False Testimony above
 - Malcolm Bragg - Assistant Director, Criminal & Financial Investigation
- Clive Edward Llewellyn - Detective Constable 7774 - "assisting HMRC officers to execute a search warrant"
- Daniel Rose - A/DS 9269, Folkestone Police Station - "assisting HMRC officers to execute a search warrant"
- James Unwin - Detective Constable 7793 - "assisting HMRC officers to execute a search warrant"

Dr David Geewater of The Butchery Practice(!), Sandwich - Customs doctor - see bruise above

Louise Frances Matthews - a forensic fraudster from the Forensic Science Service, 109 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7LP
Her report omitted to mention the word cactus anywhere.
Robin Chip Edmunds - "Digital Forensic Technician" for CCL-Forensics Ltd - another freeloader
Andrew Philip Norcliffe - Customs translator - yet another freeloader
Michael Rabott - Customs Officer, ZBI, Frankfurt Airport Germany who intercepted the "mescaline"

BBC Liars Named and Shamed

Lucia Fortucci, BBC Complaints: "These reports are based on information passed by the Police and BBC News is satisfied that this information is perfectly accurate."

Claire Jordan: "They replied that these reports are based on information passed by the Police and BBC News is satisfied that this information is perfectly accurate."

Ciaran McConnell: "I have discussed your complaint with those responsible for managing content on the BBC website and as previously stated the content of both articles are based on information passed by the police authority. Furthermore, they confirm also the photo as seen in both articles was supplied by the police and is of mescaline (sic). They have nothing more to add on this matter."

Richard Hutt, Complaints Director: "I spoke to Northumbria Police, who confirm that the image in the article shows the material seized in the raid described in the article, and that laboratory tests have confirmed that this substance is mescaline. "Considered as a generic illustration of mescaline, I do not believe that the picture would have served to seriously mislead audiences. "While the website you have sent details of offers a 900 gram bag of powdered cactus for \$99 (which I assume to be USD) the same page also states "we do ship to Europe". I do not feel able therefore to consider this to be a reliable indication of the likely value of the substance the UK".

Francesca O'Brien, Head of Editorial Standards: "You have not produced any evidence to suggest that mescaline was not seized by the police but it seems to me that in the context of a news story on arrests for possession and supply of a class A drug the difference between mescaline and the cactus powder from which it is derived is not significant."

I rest my case!

Items Stolen

Books and Magazines

True Hallucinogens *Terence McKenna* (hard back copy signed for me by the late author in 1994)
Food of the Gods: A Radical History of Plants, Drugs and Human Evolution *Terence McKenna*
Psilocybin: Magic Mushroom Grower's Guide *O. T. Oss & O. N. Oeric (Dennis and Terence McKenna)*
Magic Mushrooms around the World *Jochen Gartz*
Growing Wild Mushrooms *Bob Harris*
Plants of the Gods: Their Sacred, Healing and Hallucinogenic Powers *Richard Evans Schultes & Albert Hofmann*
Peyote: the Divine Cactus *Edward F. Anderson*
Hallucinogens and Culture *Peter T. Furst*
Acid Dreams - The Complete Social History of LSD: The CIA, The Sixties, and Beyond *Martin A Lee & Bruce Shlain*
Storming Heaven - LSD and the American Dream *Jay Stevens*
The Varieties of Psychedelic Experience: The Classic Guide to the Effects of LSD on the Human Psyche *Robert Masters & Jean Houston*
Beyond the Brain: Birth, Death, and Transcendence in Psychotherapy *Stanislav Grof*
Psychedelic Illuminations Issues 2 to 7
The Entheogen Review Volume XV, Number 3
High Times December 1992

Customs officer Mark Brice explained that my "20 books/magazines" had been seized under section 19 of PACE. Exactly what evidential value they had was never explained to me - see [27.9.10.mp3](#) below. My notebook on mushroom cultivation and plant extractions (notebook "Woolworth") was eventually returned with the books and magazines after eight months. My Tanita 1210 electronic balance was returned cracked, not doubt by the "officers", although I feel uncomfortable using this term to describe beer swilling Neanderthals who have no respect for people's property or for scientific instruments. My entire spare collection, built up over many years, was never seen again. Also seized and never listed or returned were most of my bank statements and my camera memory.

Download Customs documents:

- [Bail Letters.pdf](#)
- [Charges.pdf](#)
- [CPS letter.pdf](#)
- [Custody Record.pdf](#)
- [Forensic Science Service.pdf](#)
- [MGS.pdf](#)
- [Seizure Documents.pdf](#)
- [Witness Statements.pdf](#)

Note that many of these documents are marked RESTRICTED - they are now all UNRESTRICTED.

Download sound recordings:

[Interview.mp3](#) Interview at the detention centre at Dover Customs by Richard James Robbins and Katy Philpott.

[27.7.10.mp3](#) Being charged at Dover Police Station by PS 10135 Dyer, with a Customs officer standing either side of me. The muffled sound quality is due to the recorder being in my pocket. My reply to the charges is "absolute rubbish" and my final comments are "It's blatant discrimination" and "Just look at Alex Higgins - what's happened to him? ... cigarettes do to you, and they're all taking the money from them" (as I looked towards one of the Customs officers). (Alex Higgins had been found dead three days' earlier after battling throat cancer for years. I could also have mentioned fellow Ulsterman George Best who died following years of excessive drinking, even after a liver transplant.)

[27.9.10.mp3](#) Telephone conversation with Customs officer Mark James Brice. At 3'46" he explains that my "20 books/magazines" have been seized under section 19 of PACE. Exactly what evidential value they had was never explained to me.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 Section 19:
Under section 19 when a constable is lawfully on any premises he can seize anything which he finds on the premises if he has reasonable grounds for believing:

- (i) that it has been obtained in consequence of the commission of an offence; or
- (ii) that it is evidence in relation to an offence which he is investigating or any other offence;
- And (iii) that it is necessary to seize it in order to prevent it being concealed, lost, damaged, altered or destroyed.

[28.9.10.mp3](#) Telephone conversation with Customs officer Sarah Jane Wilson regarding the return of my scale (damaged). Do not be deceived by her dulcet tones - see False Testimony above.

[6.12.10.mp3](#) My final exchange with Sarah Wilson and her colleague while collecting my property - after eight months.

Advice for Detainees

I should emphasise here that I am not legally qualified. Nevertheless my advice would be to give no information and answer no questions other than to confirm your name and address. They may ask whether you want anyone to be told that you are in custody - again I would advise giving no information as they may be looking for another address to raid. If possible, when being arrested, insist that you are not leaving without any money and bring as much clothing as possible, as you may have to spend up to 24 hours in a cell with sleep deprivation, and then be dumped outside a police station after being bailed at any time of day or night, with no money or means of getting home. I would also insist on seeing the time that the custody officer books you in at, as this may be falsified in order to detain you for longer. You are entitled to have a solicitor present at your interview, however I would not sign any legal aid forms. This is a specialised area of law and local solicitors are unlikely to have the necessary expertise. If you decide to change your solicitor later, under the legal aid rules the second solicitor will only receive half of the fee, so they are unlikely to take the case on. You will not need legal representation at a magistrates' court if you are pleading not guilty, which I would advise, as you have a right to trial by judge and jury for Class A drug offences. The majority is most likely to be pleading in order to justify their existence, so there is no point in collecting a career wrecking drug conviction if you don't have to. I called their bluff at every stage and after eight months and thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money had been blown, they finally threw in the towel ([CPS letter.pdf](#)). I was represented by Richard Parry of BSB Solicitors in London, who was first class.

Once released on bail, I emailed the local newspapers from a friend's computer to explain how I was being fitted up by Customs for mescaline, simply for buying powdered cactus. Again the law is totally one sided here - Customs and Police lies can be printed without question, but if your account is printed, the paper can be charged with contempt of court! Nevertheless they are less likely to print official lies if your account contradicts them, although this only applies to independent local newspapers, not state controlled media (see BBC Liars Named and Shamed above).

Final Thoughts

In case the public believe that I am just another "career criminal" who deserves everything he gets, I should like to point out that I have never had a criminal conviction in my life. Some years' ago when I was fitter, I worked as a Community Service Supervisor for Kent Probation Service in Dover. I have also been employed as a lecturer at South Kent College in Dover, as an IT instructor at Sandwich Adult Education and as a volunteer minibus driver for Deal Handicapped Club. I was also captain of Deal Chess Club. Cacti, magic mushrooms, DMT and the like are not hard drugs or problem drugs, regardless of the law. I am not advocating over the counter sales but by people of my age, in declining health, decide to indulge in the privacy of their own homes. I do not see that it is anyone else's business. Were I to apply for another teaching position, I would have to consent to an 'enhanced' CRB check which would reveal all of this to the prospective employer and most likely disqualify me. So I am effectively guilty even though I have committed no crime!

The only people Customs are really supporting are themselves and the drug barons that prohibition keeps in business. Without prohibition we would have fewer prisons and a huge reduction in urban gun crime and burglaries. And with international agreement it would put the Taliban as well as the Mexican and South American cartels out of business. And it would make not one iota of difference to the mortality rate which has always been dominated by the same two substances - cigarettes and alcohol. Politicians have always refused to accept scientific evidence where "drugs" are concerned and have now changed the constitution of the Advisory Council so there doesn't have to be any. They and their ilk have yet to grasp the principles of Enlightenment tolerance.

Other Criminal Activity by Customs

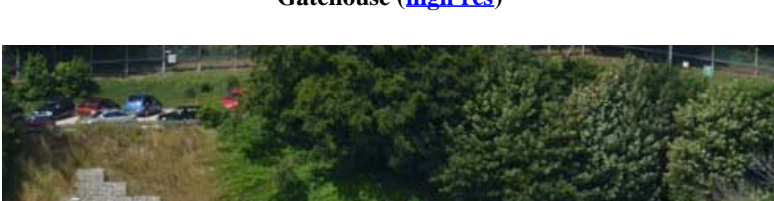
Customs, now rebranded as UK Border Agency, are specialists at car thefts and burglaries. While they appear to enjoy some legal immunity, in reality they are totally above the law. The judiciary nearly always find in their favour and they have an endless supply of taxpayers' money to spend on barristers, so they can appeal any decision they lose until they bankrupt the appellant. The official euphemism used by Customs for their car thefts and burglaries is seizure. In theory one can contest this in court, but it would be very unwise to do so since the scales of justice are weighted heavily in their favour. Section 2.16 of [HMRC Reference:Notice 12A \(November 2010\)](#) states that if the court finds in their favour, which it usually does, Customs can apply costs of £2,16 of £1,500. You can visit the Customs circus every Thursday at Dover Magistrates' Court.

[An innocent booze cruise mother weeps as van is sold by Customs](#) tells the story of Mrs Kim Cundle, a mother of four, who had her Mercedes van seized by Customs officers in Dover and sold at auction, simply because they considered that she had purchased too much wine and beer in France for her fortieth birthday party. She was never charged with any offence and received not a penny from the auction of her van, which she used for her business. [More Customs car thefts](#)

Hoverspeed suffered years of harassment to its customers by Customs on its Dover-Calais route, despite taking [successful legal action](#) against them and eventually ceased operations in 2005. What an accomplishment for Customs - putting a tax paying private company out of business and all its employees out of work.

I have also been advised recently, from a reliable source, that Dover Customs are involved in the resale of seized hard core pornography.

Hopefully Mr Cameron's budget cuts will downsize this circus at the taxpayers' expense, so many of them may have to find proper jobs - perhaps the local supermarkets could find them some useful work.



Thieves' Lair



No identifying signs



Gatehouse ([high res](#))



Aerial View



Dog Kennels



Dover's Secret Prison - no windows or washbasins



Entrance to Prison - no visitors allowed



View from adjacent land

Resources

- [2007 U.K. Trichocereus Cacti Legal Case](#)
- [Drug Equality Alliance](#)
- [Parents Against Lethal Addictive Drugs](#)
- [European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies](#)
- [On Cognitive Liberty \(Part 2\) by Richard Glen Boire, Esq.](#)
- [Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies](#) and [Recommended Links](#)
- [Erowid](#)
- [Law Enforcement Against Prohibition](#)
- [Why LSD Should Be Legalized](#)

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