

# COUNTY LINES

# County Lines Definition:

County Lines is the police term given to the business model adopted by urban gangs that supply drugs to suburban areas , market towns and coastal towns using dedicated mobile phone lines or “*deal lines*”.

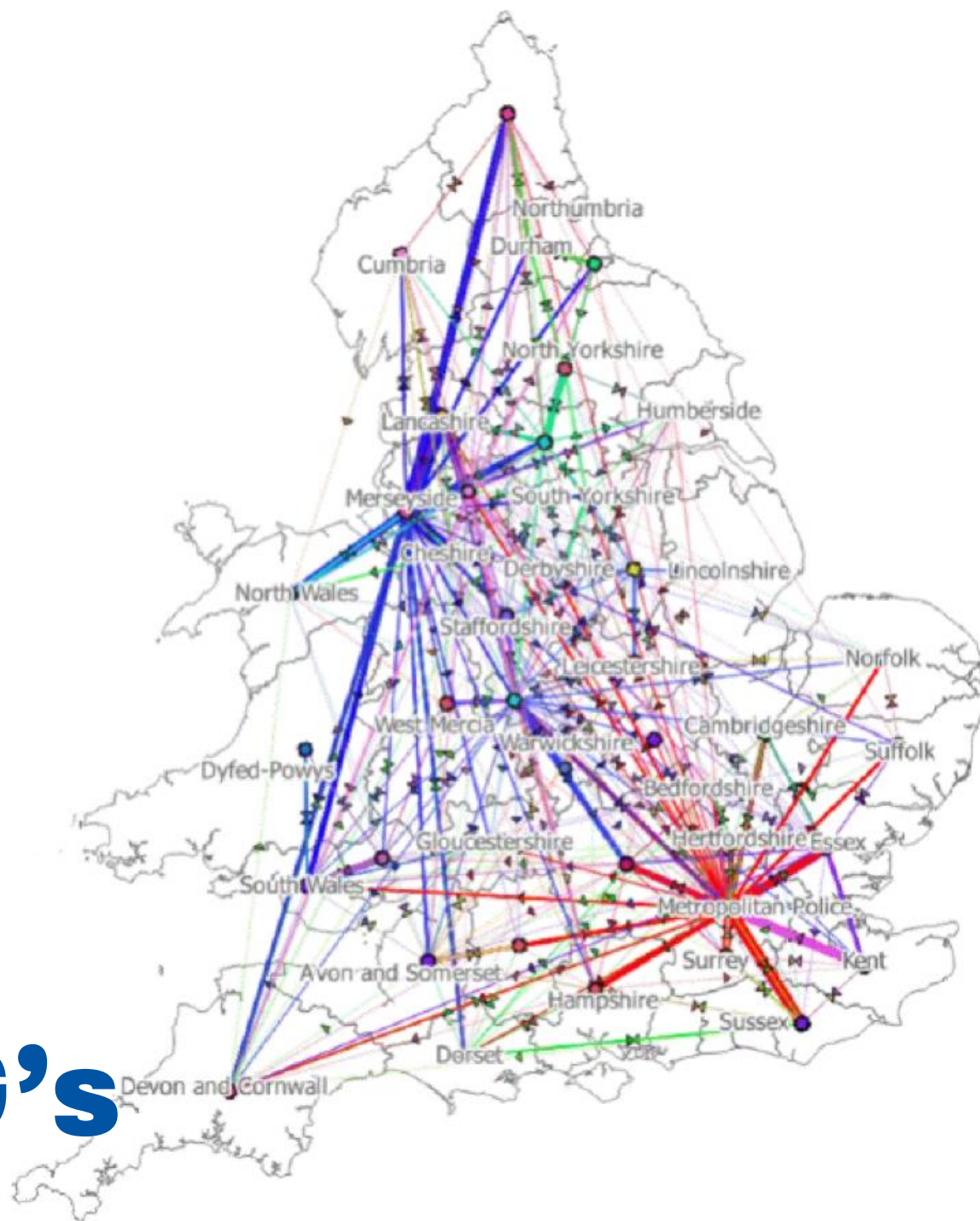
Typically this involves the supply of crack cocaine and heroin.

Gang networks groom and exploit young people to sell drugs, often made to travel across counties using dedicated phone lines to supply drugs.

# Ran by OCG's

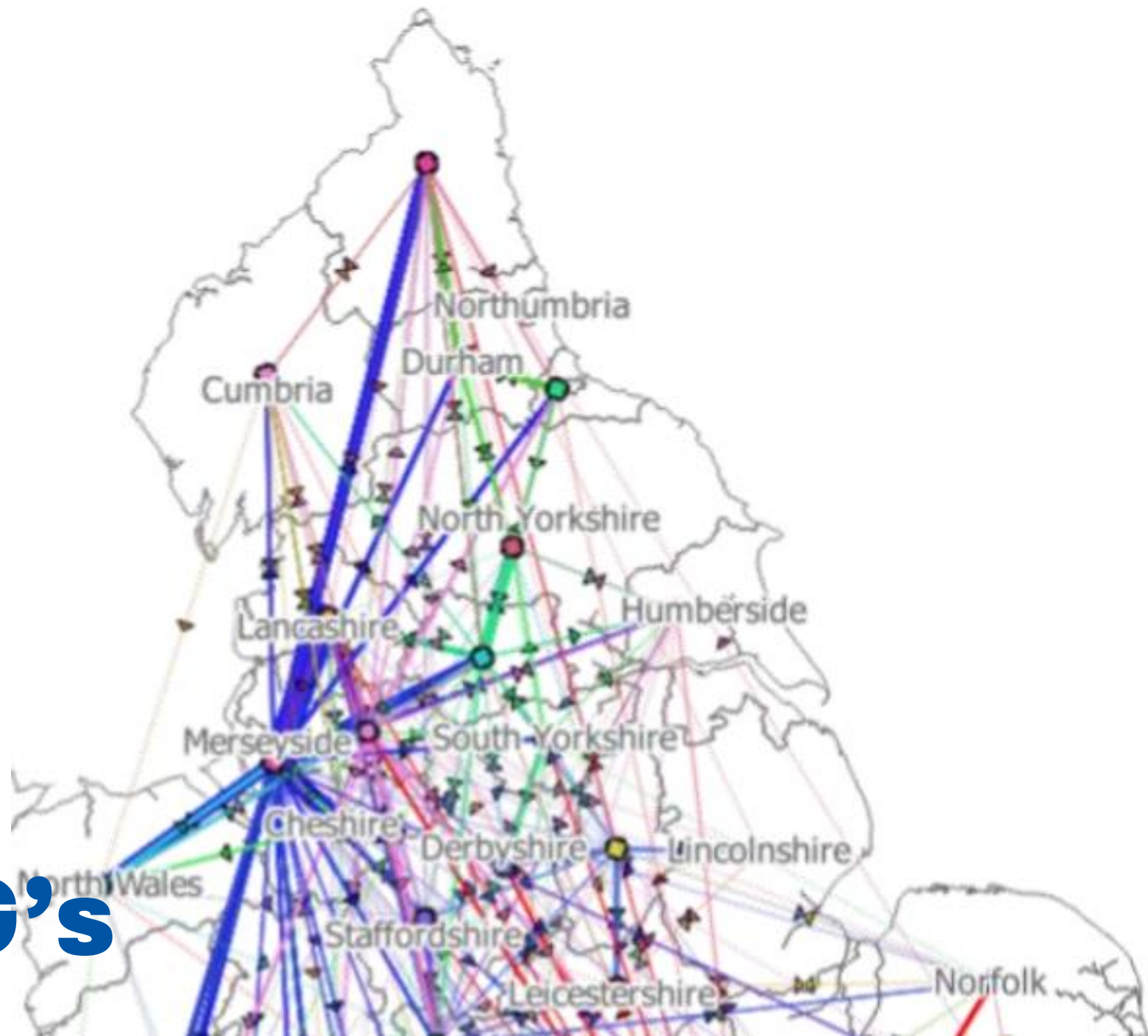
**‘County Lines’  
drug supply  
routes used to  
supply heroin  
and crack  
cocaine.**

**Ran by OCG’s**



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**Ran by OCG’s**





# **Criminal Exploitation:**

Criminal exploitation is a form of modern day slavery that sees victims forced to work under the control of highly organised criminals.

Gangs or individuals target children, young people and vulnerable adults and force them into activities such as stealing, dealing drugs and committing violent acts.

Vulnerable adults can be targeted for the purpose of cuckooing where dealers befriend them and take over their homes to store and sell drugs (trap houses).

# What does a County Lines gang structure look like?



**Manager/Faces** - top or higher end of the chain, limited contact with street level operations, not often seen or known by street level members

Operates like a business but outside the law – over 7000 operating within the UK  
Those at the top have access to a lot of money and power over those below them

**Elders** - in charge of running street operations and trap houses, deal in larger amounts of class A and B drugs, purchase of firearms and other weapons, have authority over street dealers and youngers

**They rely on exploitation to be successful**

**Youngers**- generally under 18 and have some level of authority and provide a link between the Elder and the Soldiers.

**Soldiers (Runners)** secondary school aged students acting as drug mules travelling around the country distributing drugs and recruiting /grooming new members

**Younger Boys or Girls - Wannabes or Teenies** - the future Soldier/Runner will be upper primary school aged or lower secondary.

## How the gangs work...

	<b>TARGET</b>	
	<b>WATCH</b>	an area, young person(s)
	<b>BEFRIEND</b>	identify target, strike up friendship, appear to have things in common, peer pressure
	<b>RECRUIT</b>	into the 'gang', feel protected, glamourise

3 Stages of grooming

## TEST



### GIFTS

money, phones and other items

### TRUST

sense of belonging, feeling special, powerful,  
test loyalty

### MANIPULATE

influence, control, trick

3 Stages of grooming



## TRAP



### CONTROL

debt bondage, threats, violence, fear

### ISOLATE

remove from friends / family / school

### TRAFFIC

moved around to sell drugs / weapons / sex,  
sent to trap houses for days to sell drugs

### ABUSE

physical, emotional and sexual

3 Stages of grooming



# **Know the signs to spot.**

County lines gangs use children and vulnerable people to courier drugs and money.

# Know the signs to spot.

County lines gangs use children and vulnerable people to courier drugs and money.

A young person who is involved in county lines activity might exhibit some of these signs:



Persistently going missing from school or home, or being found out-of-area



Unexplained acquisition of money, clothes or mobile phones



excessive receipt of texts or phone calls



Relationships with controlling, older individuals or gang association



Leaving home or care without explanation



Suspicion of self-harm, physical assault or unexplained injuries



Parental concerns



Significant decline in school performance



Significant changes in emotional well-being



# Social Media Use



- **Used to groom and recruit children**
- **Direct messaging or group posts**
- **Used by dealers to advertise drugs**
- **Disappearing messages**
- **Code words and emojis used**
- **Designed to evade detection**

**One in four** children have  
seen **drugs** advertised on  
social media.

**sky**

**NEWS**

**Research carried out by SKY NEWS**



Of the one in four children  
who have seen drugs  
for sale on social media:

**56%**

saw drugs  
advertised  
on Snapchat

**47%**

saw drugs  
advertised  
on Facebook

**55%**

saw drugs  
advertised  
on Instagram





Of the one in four children who have seen drugs for sale on social media:

**63%**

have seen  
cannabis advertised

**26%**

have seen  
cocaine advertised

**24%**

have seen  
MDMA/ecstasy  
advertised

**20%**

have seen  
Xanax for sale

**17%**

have seen  
nitrous oxide

**16%**

have seen  
codeine/lean

# Common Emojis





# Common Emojis



**Cannabis**

**Class: B drug**

# Common Emojis



# Common Emojis



**Vape Cart | THC Vape | CBD**



**THC Extract**

**Class:  
B drug**

## Short Term Effects Of Vaping THC

### ATTENTION

Blood shot eyes  
Dazed/dreamy demeanour  
Short term memory loss  
Faint/feeling sick  
The giggles  
The munchies  
Dry mouth  
Paranoia  
Anxiety

Vape Cart | THC Vape | CBD



THC Extract

# Common Emojis



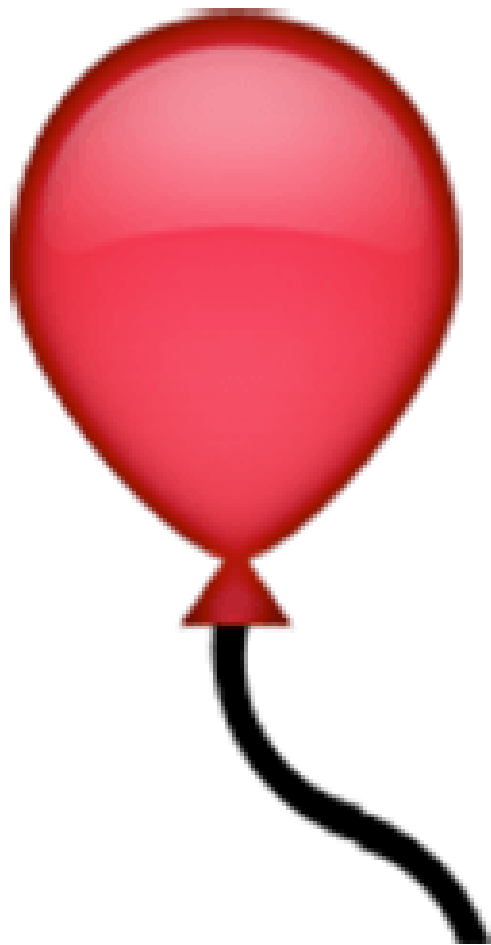


# Common Emojis

**High  
Potency**

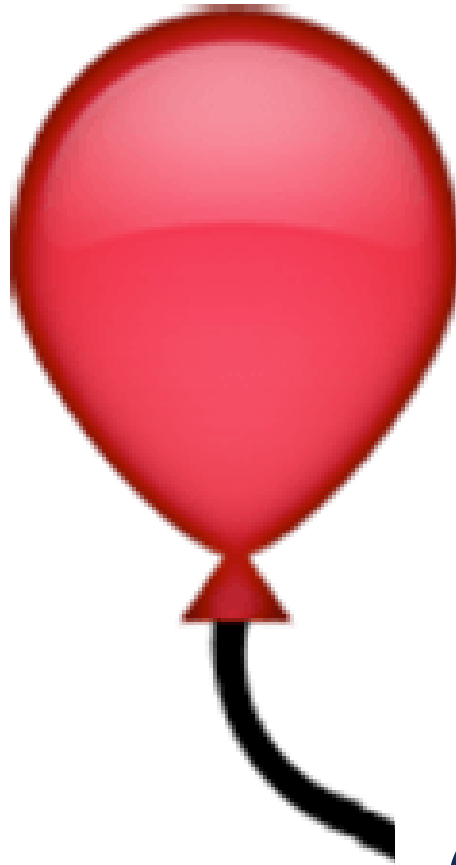


# Common Emojis



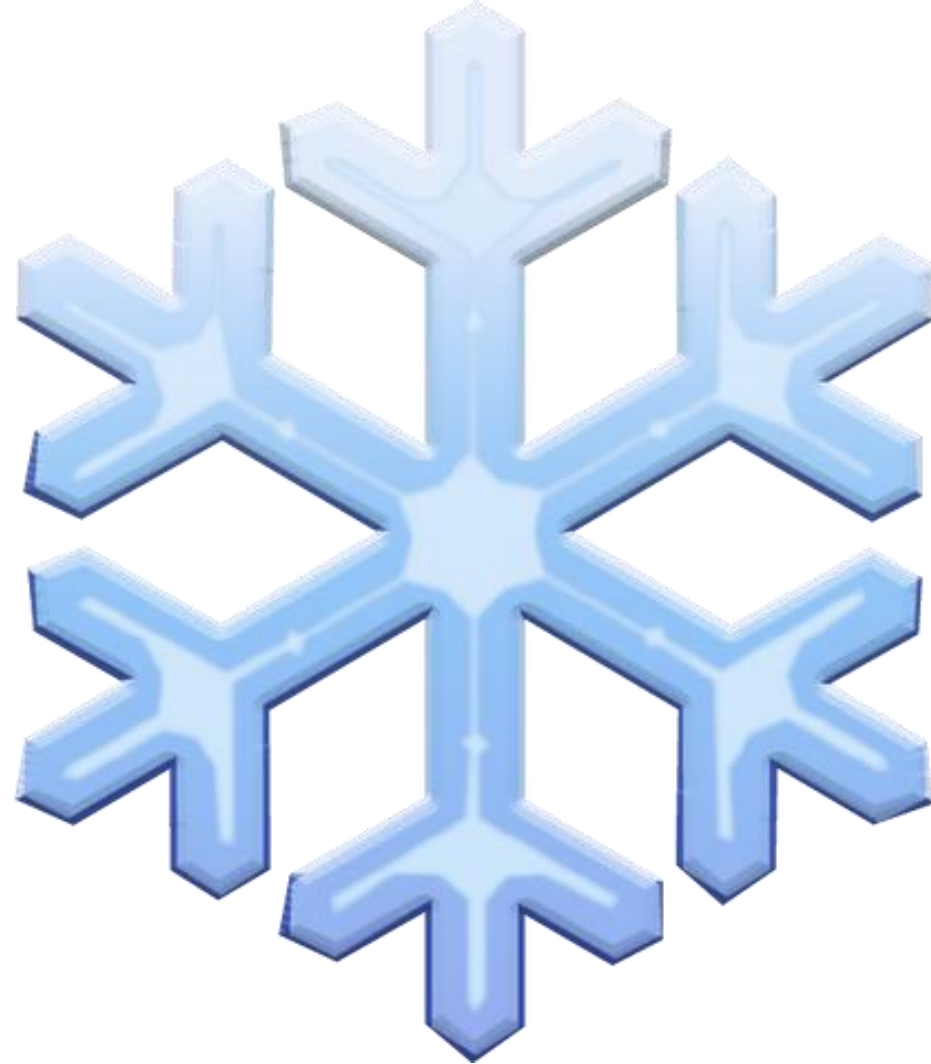
# Common Emojis

**Nitrous  
Oxide  
=  
Laughing  
Gas**



**Class: C drug**

# Common Emojis



# Common Emojis

**Cocaine**



**Class:**  
**A drug**



# Common Emojis



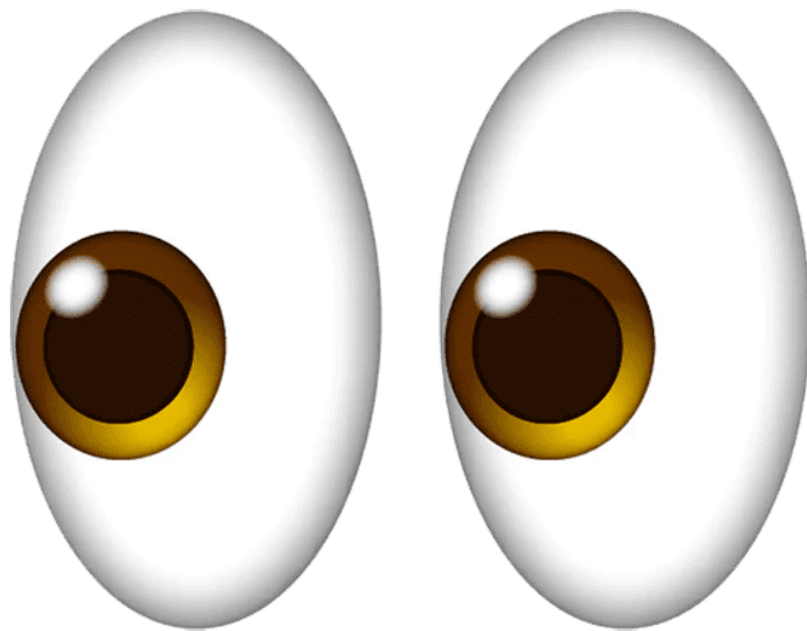
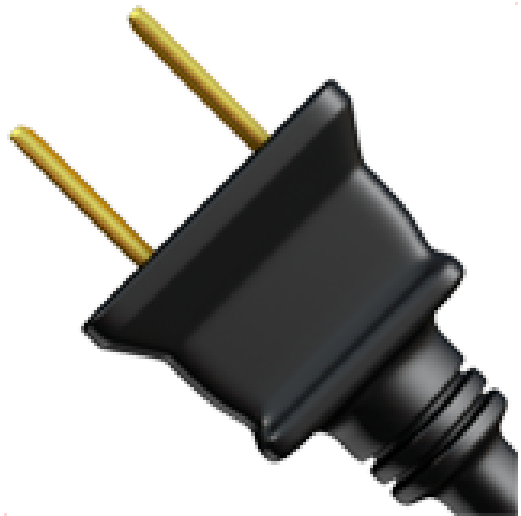
# Common Emojis

**Generally,  
represents  
cocaine**

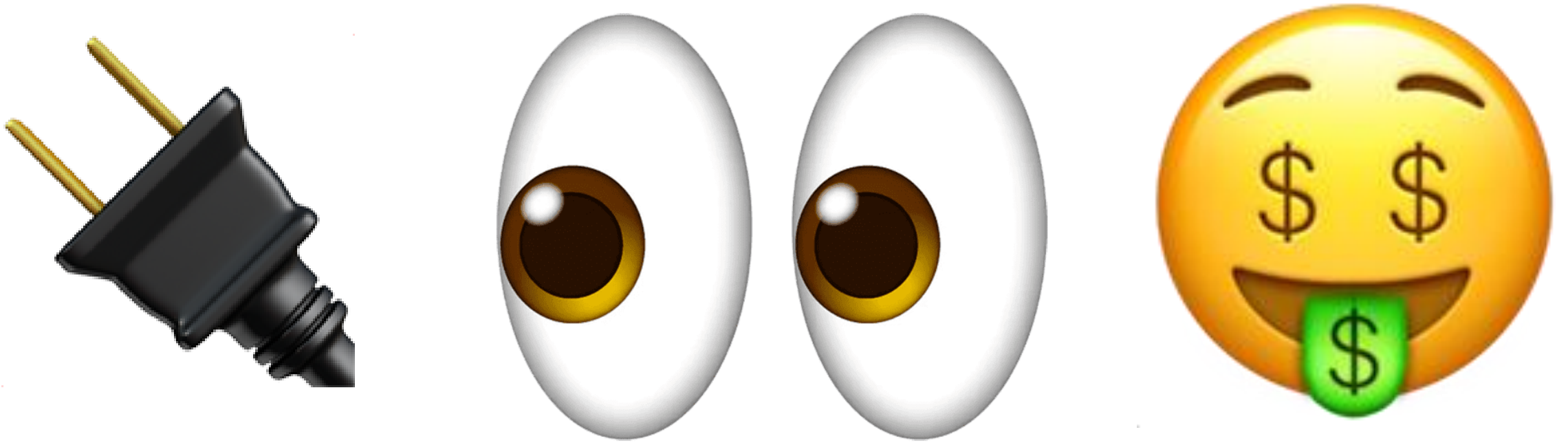
**1/8 ounce**



# Common Emojis



# Common Emojis



# Dealing Drugs

# Common Emojis

## FAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

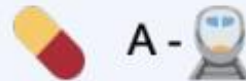
### PERCOCET & OXYCODONE



### XANAX



### ADDERALL



## OTHER DRUGS

### METH



### HEROIN



### COCAINE



### MDMA & MOLLIES



### MUSHROOMS



### COUGH SYRUP

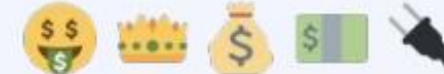


### MARIJUANA



## DEALER SIGNALS

### DEALER ADVERTISING



### HIGH POTENCY



### UNIVERSAL FOR DRUGS



### LARGE BATCH





# Social Media Posts

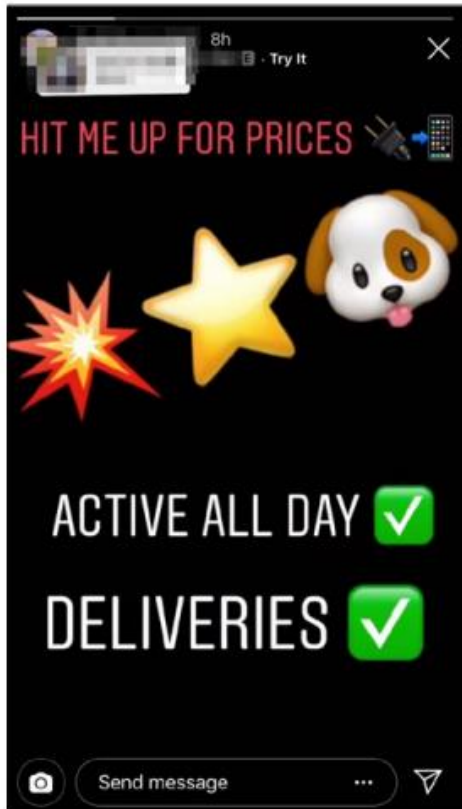


Image 70: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which advertises that they are active all day and are doing deliveries. The 'bang' emoji suggests that their product is 'banging', which means good quality. The use of the star and dog emojis indicates that the dealer is advertising 'Stardawg', which is a strain of cannabis.

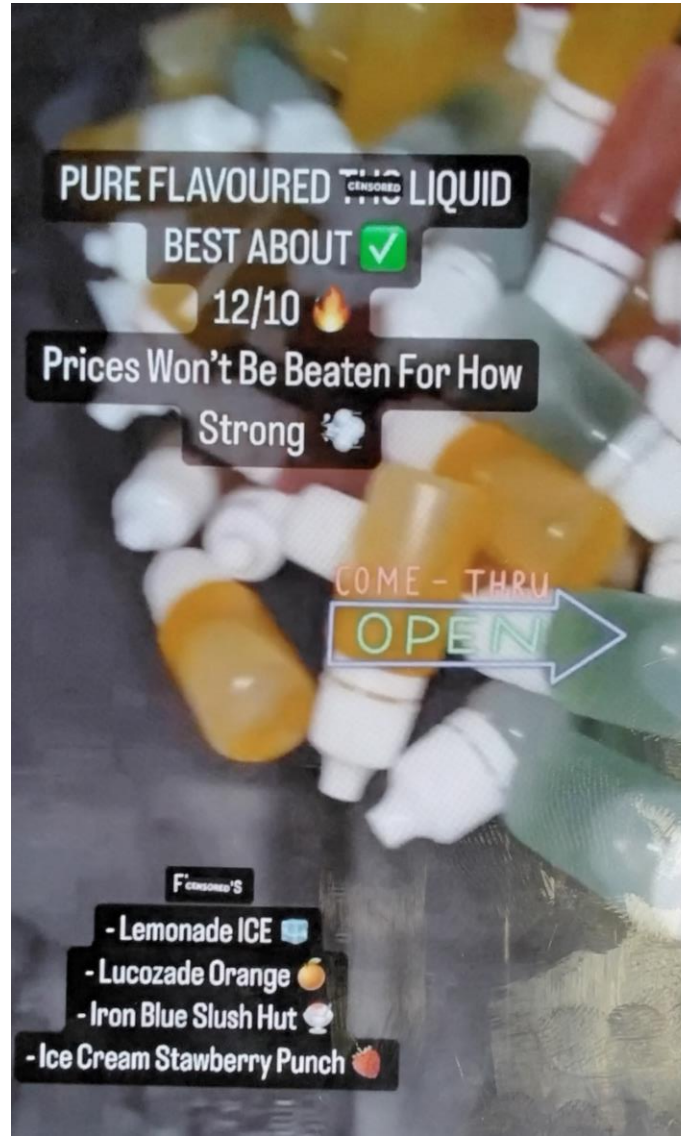


Image 72: Screenshot of a suspected dealer's Instagram story which shows a picture of cannabis, the strain, price and quantity. 'Purple dawg' is a strain of cannabis. 'Zed' means ounce, thus, the suspected dealer is stating that they have one more ounce left of 'Purple dawg' to sell at £170.





abz2lpool2023  
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK



abz2lpool2023



78  
posts

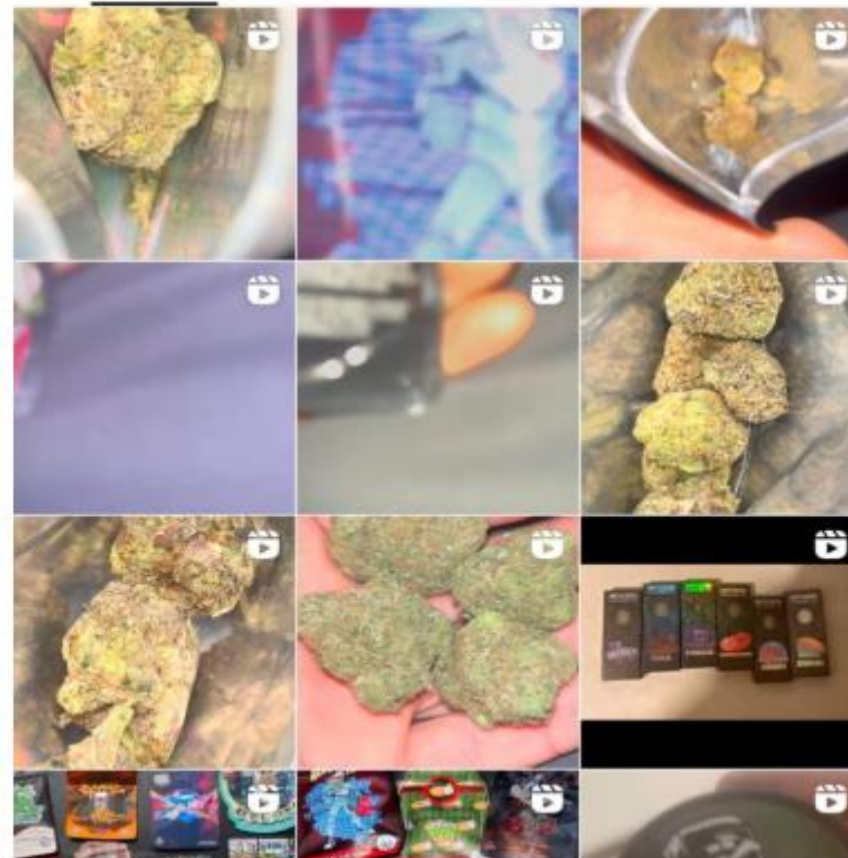
191  
followers

279  
following

Abz2lpool  
aberdeen gas

Follow

Message



# News

## Search

Enter a keyword

## Filter

### Crime

- ☐ Firearms
- ☐ Child sexual exploitation and



## Pair jailed following fatal Channel small boat crossing

Two men have been jailed for piloting a boat across the Channel to the UK from France, in an incident which saw two people die in France.

03 June 2025

Organised immigration crime



## Six arrested following joint NCA and Police Scotland drugs operation



Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › News › Crime ⋮

## South Tyneside drug dealer caught with more than £ ...

7 days ago — A man caught with £176000 worth of **Class A drugs** and over £200000 cash has been put behind bars.



Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › News › Crime ⋮

## Six men arrested as police seize drugs, cash and vehicles ...

6 days ago — **Six men arrested as police seize drugs, cash and vehicles** in South Tyneside crackdown ... More from Shields Gazette. Announcements · Celebrations ...



Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › topic › drugs ⋮

## Drugs Latest News

**Cops raid a £420k cannabis farm...and find a sleeping drug dealer** · Gary McCaffery ... South Tyneside  
drug raids: Six arrested as police seize weapons, drugs.





Shields Gazette

<https://www.shieldsgazette.com> › News › Crime



## Brothers hid bags of heroin in an arcade after being caught ...

24 Mar 2025 — **Two brothers hid bags of heroin** between two slot machines in an amusement arcade after they were caught dealing in the street.

# If you have any concerns:

**Immediate risk of harm?**

## Safeguarding Team



**Mr Liddle**

Designated Safeguarding  
Lead (DSL)



**Mrs Constable**

Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
(DLS)



**Mr Mallam**

Safeguarding Officer

**Speak to a member of  
the safeguarding team as  
soon as you can.**

# If you have any concerns:

## Immediate risk of harm?



**Speak to a member of the safeguarding team as soon as you can.**

## Record Concern



**Use CPOMS to record details of your concern.**

# If you have any concerns:

## Immediate risk of harm?

### Safeguarding Team



Speak to a member of the safeguarding team as soon as you can.

## Record Concern



Use CPOMS to record details of your concern.

## External Professionals



**COUNTY**

**LINES**

**SLANG QUIZ**



# Burner Phone

# Burner Phone

## ‘Disposable Phone’

# Clean Skins

Clean Skins

No Criminal Record

# Trap House



Trap House  
Base for dealing

# Cuckooing

Cuckooing

Take over a property

# Debt-bondage

Debt-bondage  
Owing Money

**Bic**



Bic

Gun or a Child

# Plugging

Plugging

Hiding drugs inside  
the body

# Roadman

Roadman  
Drug courier

# Shank



Shank

Knife, Blade, Stab

# Bando

**Bando**

**Abandoned Property**