

Court hears how undercover policeman investigated town house

Women ran brothels in centre of Horsnham



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AN UNDERCOVER policeman was sent to investigate a brothel in Queen Street, Horsham, a court heard.

Ping Hylott, 48, of Nutfield Road, Redhill, and Linua Na, 46, of Ridgeway Road, Redhill, admitted keeping brothels in Queen Street and Denne Road, and laundering more than £25,000.

Hylott also admitted running a brothel in South Road, Haywards Heath.

They were sentenced at Lewes Crown Court on Tuesday. Hylott was given a one year jail sentence, suspended for two years. Na was given a nine month sentence, suspended for two years.

Prosecutor Michael Warren said Hylott began renting the Denne Road house in December 2007, promoting it in the Friday Ad.

Na, who had better command of English, helped with placing the adverts.

The landlord ended the tenancy after a year, when he dis-

covered the house he owned, referred to a house he owned, the court heard.

The pair set up a new brothel in Queen Street, but nearby residents became suspicious and called the police.

'Peter', an undercover officer, visited the flat in August 2009 and found a madam and a young Oriental prostitute there.

Mr Warren said the officer was offered sex for £60, but said he only wanted a straightforward massage.

"He does indicate that he had great difficulty keeping the young Oriental girl's hands out of his underpants, which was all that he was wearing," he added.

Another brothel was run from South Road, Haywards Heath, at a house rented out to Hylott's son.

Police and immigration officers visited it and found two Oriental women and a man, who was being given a massage.

Mr Warren said they believed other people had been there, but had got out via the fire escape.

"A man arrived, carrying shopping from Iceland," said Mr Warren. "He said he was there to pay for sex; his excuse was that he had a different sex drive to his wife's."

The Queen Street brothel

year, together with Hylott and Na's homes.

A suspected brothel in Court Road, Lewes, was also raided.

Both women claimed they thought the women at the brothels were offering a genuine massage service, and denied knowing that the homes were being used for prostitution.

However, they pleaded guilty to the offences once the case reached crown court.

Ray Barnett, representing Hylott, said she was a former nurse from China, who effectively acted as a carer for her ill husband.

"There's no suggestion that there was any involvement in trafficking young girls, or coercion, or anything of that nature," he said.

Charmaime Wilson, representing Na, said she had got involved to help her friend with what she thought was a legal business.

However, she admitted carrying on after she realised what was really happening.

Neither of the two women had any previous convictions. Police have applied to confiscate their illegal earnings under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.



Ping Hylott (left) and Linua Na, who kept brothels in Queen Street and Denne Road.

Nettie Woodland, from Sussex Police, said: "I am pleased with the sentence that Hylott and Na received today."

"This was a long and complex investigation which involved officers from Sussex Police economic crime unit and support from partner agencies."

"Although many people refer to prostitution as 'the oldest profession in the world', managing a brothel is a criminal offence and will not be tolerated here in Sussex."

woman to work from a premises, the general interpretation of this is that she is working for herself.

"However, it was clear from the investigation and guilty pleas that Hylott and Na were instrumental in the management of several brothels in Sussex and benefited financially from women working there."

"This investigation was not about targeting women who may choose to work in the sex industry for themselves but is about identifying exploitation

and bringing to justice those that control, manage and benefit financially from brothels."

"Sussex Police worked closely with officers from Immigration and other agencies to identify and establish who was operating the brothels, whether man trafficking had and occurring, what sexual services were being provided, whether sexual exploitation was taking place."

"In this instance no victim of human trafficking was found."