

Det. Sergeant Neil Woods (Fmr.)
Derbyshire Constabulary
Derbyshire, England
Executive Board Member

Det. Sgt. Neil Woods (Fmr.) served with the Derbyshire Constabulary in England for 23 years. For thirteen of those years, he worked as an undercover police officer on drug cases, purchasing heroin and crack cocaine, and infiltrating organized crime. He trained social workers and youth social workers on the effects of drugs and taught undercover techniques throughout Yorkshire and East Midlands. Woods has also carried out training on drug policy for members of parliaments, police agencies and military leaders from various nations around the world.

He received the Chief Constable's Award for bravery during an undercover operation and a number of other commendations. His experience as an undercover officer taught him how terribly the drug war harms those to whom nobody listens. He believes that the perspectives of officers with frontline experience are being ignored. "Every time we performed a 'clampdown' on the gangs, two things would happen. New suppliers stepped up their brutality in competition for the freshly shaken-up market, and society's most vulnerable also got a 'clampdown' to terrify them into not speaking to the police."

Woods is a best selling author of the memoir "Good Cop Bad War," which is in development for a television drama, and the history book "Drug Wars." He is a regular media pundit on major news outlets in the U.K. and across Europe. He has also appeared in media in many other nations such as Australia and South Africa on the topics of drugs, drug policy, and policing around the world. Woods has also been featured on multiple social media outlets, including Insider, Unilad, and Vice. He was a board member of the Drugs Expert Evidence and Valuation Association (DEEVA), and while in service gave expert testimony on drug cases for the Crown Prosecution Service. He lives in the Staffordshire Moorlands in England.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 200 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews..

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