

THE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY  
OF DRUG-BASED ORGANISED  
CRIME IN SCOTLAND

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# THE CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF DRUG-BASED ORGANISED CRIME IN SCOTLAND

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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*Michael Pugh*

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## PROLOGUE: THE APPLEROW ATROCITY

On a chilly Wednesday afternoon, shortly before 2:12 p.m. on 6 December 2006, a blue Mazda car, registration S733ESF, was captured on CCTV parked outside the Applerow Motors MOT garage in Glasgow's Lambhill Estate. The garage is a family run business, owned by David Lyons, brother of Eddie Lyons senior, known figurehead of the Lyons crime family, based in Milton, Glasgow. Stepping out from the Mazda, two men disguised with 'old man' masks and trench coats, later identified as Raymond 'Rainbow' Anderson, then 45, and James Scott McDonald, then 33, proceeded to enter the garage forecourt, armed with military grade firearms, as the workers inside went about their business of testing and repairing motor vehicles (Scottish Courts & Tribunals, 2022, p. 6). It is believed that Raymond's son, Junior, was also present during the time of the incident, as the driver of the Mazda, though charges against him were dropped at the subsequent court trail. Among those working inside the garage were David Lyons, his son Mark and his nephew Michael Lyons Junior. David's nephew, Steven Lyons, accompanied by his friend, Robert 'Piggy' Pickett, the gunmen's intended targets, were also present. Steven's vehicle, a Ford Focus, was booked in to be serviced that day.

David Lyons was first to spot the masked pair. He called out a warning to the others inside. His nephew, Michael Junior, took heed and attempted to flee; however, one of the gunmen would fatally wound him with a single shot through the chest (Scottish Courts & Tribunals, 2022). Steven Lyons, at the time of his uncle's warning call, was seated in his vehicle. Steven instinctively slammed on the accelerator as a bullet shattered the Focus's rear window. Having nowhere to go, the vehicle struck the metal perimeter fence, bringing it to a halt. A second bullet was then fired, superficially striking Steven on the back. A third, and final shot in his direction, would result in a bullet passing through his leg, breaking it in two in the process, as he attempted to flee from the smashed vehicle for more adequate cover (Findlay, 2012a). Pickett was less lucky than Steven and received considerably worse injuries. As the masked pair entered the garage, Pickett had been standing outside the vehicle. Trapped inside the small unit, he was an easy target. Soon, Pickett was shot twice in the back, before one of the gunmen pumped a third bullet into his abdomen from

close range, only two feet away (Findlay, 2012a, p. 88). The gunmen then proceeded to run back to the Mazda car, get in and drive off. The car was found two days later on Friday, 8th December 2006, abandoned in Vaila Street, Cadder, a short distance from the *locus*, having been set alight and burned out. The attack took all of three minutes. By 2:15 p.m., two men lay critically ill, while a third, Michael Junior, was dead (Scottish Courts & Tribunals, 2011).