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AMNESTY FOR FETTES RAIDER

POLICE worked an amnesty deal with the petty crook who broke into their Edinburgh headquarters, it was claimed today.

An officer agreed to give the criminal immunity from prosecution over the Fettes break-in — provided dozens of highly sensitive stolen files were returned to them.

But we can disclose the culprit copied most of the material before dumping the original papers at an isolated, pre-arranged spot where they were collected by police.

Detectives who investigated the embarrassing break-in, knew from an early stage who carried out the raid, but didn't have enough evidence to charge him.

A reliable source close to the criminal said the documents had been copied "as insurance" in case the police tried to renege on the deal.

Informants

While the material was in the hands of the thief, senior officers were under immense pressure to retrieve the documents and sanctioned the agreement.

The break-in took place during the early hours of Sunday, July 19, at an office leased to the Scottish Crime Squad. The raider spent two hours searching through files.

He was believed to have taken material relating to the Animal Liberation Front, Ulster Loyalist sym-



TARGET: The Fettes HQ raided early on July 19 when "sensitive" files were stolen by a petty crook.

by David Forsyth and Scott Douglas

NEWS REPORTERS

pathisers and crime squad officers and their informants.

But a number of people with connections in Edinburgh's gay community were later questioned as speculation grew that the thief was after a document which concentrated on influential gays in the legal profession — the so-called "magic circle".

That document was later leaked to the Evening News and we exclusively revealed police fears that highly-placed gays in the legal profession had left themselves open to blackmail and may have tampered with the course of justice.

Another theory was that the docu-

ments were to be used for blackmail.

Our source denied the "magic circle" document was ever the target but stressed the files actually taken were every bit as sensitive.

The culprit had carried out the raid through his desire to embarrass the police.

Police spokesman Chief Inspector Bryan Lowrie said: "While the inquiry is ongoing it would be inappropriate to comment."

But today Chief Constable Sir William Sutherland issued a new statement which said: "The allegation is incorrect. The file on the circumstances surrounding the break-in is being prepared."

He said a report was being prepared and would be submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Rent boy speaks out

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THE rent boy at the centre of the gay judges scandal, today broke his 19-month silence to say: "I stand by everything I said."

We tracked down Jason, who was named in a controversial police report leaked to the Evening News, to his new life in the west of Scotland.

Now in his early 20s Jason told how a wealthy client took him to a plush Edinburgh house, where he saw a photograph of the man dressed in long red robes.

The police report, prepared for the Chief Constable, expresses fears that a ring of influential homosexuals in the legal system may have interfered with cases.

Jason said: "Everything was

Pledge by rent boy in 'gay judges' scandal

EXCLUSIVE by David Forsyth and Scott Douglas

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absolutely true and I stand by everything I said. I was picked up by the man in a large red car near Regent Road. He wanted full sex with me. I had to get condoms at Waverley station.

"I was taken to a big house out of the city centre. He made me duck

down out of sight in the front seat. "We went inside, and I saw a photograph of him dressed in long robes hanging on a wall.

"But I don't want all of this blown up again. I have got away from that scene now, thank God, and I don't want to be involved. I have a decent job, and I want to keep it."

The slightly built young man was 18 at the time the rent boys case came to court. He had been "turning tricks" since he was 12 after being brought up in care. He has worked the gay scene in Edinburgh, Brighton and

London, making up to £100 a night.

But he said: "I got a real fright at the time all of that happened. Now I just want to stay away from it all."

Jason first told his story, exclusively in the Evening News, immediately after one of the cases which is featured in the police report — the "rent boy" High Court case in February last year.

In that case, 47 of the 57 charges were dropped shortly before the case began, allowing five of the ten accused to walk free. One was acquitted after trial, and the other four admitted reduced charges.

The police report says: "It became known among police, press and court officials that there was the possibility of one such rent boy, who has never been identified, being placed in the witness box and being in a position to point the finger at a judge or judges."



SCANDAL: How the Evening News told the story of alleged gay links to judges.



BRYAN LOWRIE: Not appropriate to comment while inquiry continues.



BREAK-IN: When Police HQ was raided, animal liberation activists were thought to be responsible.