

NEWS

LIFESTYLE TV FOCUS OF CRIMINAL PROBE

Durham Constabulary has mounted a criminal investigation into **Lifestyle TV**, the company that sparked a torrent of complaints from salon customers.

The probe also includes **Cheshire Finance & Leasing** which shared the same directors with Lifestyle TV and brokered finance deals with **Lombard**.

Lifestyle TV, supplier of a diamond crystal mirror system, including television screens, in-salon channels and programming was wound up in the summer of 2009.

Complaints ranged from alleged fraud to misrepresentation, non-delivery and the supply of non-functioning equipment.

SalonFocus, which was at the forefront of developments as events unfolded, had feared that after the **Official Receiver's Office** abandoned its own investigation, that nothing more would be done.

But Durham Constabulary has been busy following up a complaint from **Carrie Rutter**, of **Carrie Hairdressing**, in Darlington who, with the help of solicitors **Wright & Wright**, succeeded in persuading finance company **Lombard** there was sufficient doubt as to the authenticity of the signature that Lifestyle had obtained.

Lombard subsequently released Rutter from the finance agreement and sent her a cheque for nearly **£11,000** which was what she had paid during the agreement. Lombard also said it had no intention of recovering the equipment.

A spokesman for Lombard parent **Royal Bank of Scotland**, said: "Lifestyle TV and Cheshire Finance & Leasing are currently under police investigation, so it would be inappropriate for us to comment."

Durham Constabulary told *SalonFocus* that officers had arrested four people to date – three men and a woman "on suspicion of creating a false instrument and obtaining property by deception". No charges had been brought against them but enquiries were continuing.

He said former Lifestyle director **Anthony Lloyd** was believed to be out of the UK and the **UK Border Agency** had been informed that if he re-entered the country, police would like to speak to him.



CARRIE RUTTER



CARRIE RUTTER'S SALON, CARRIE HAIRDRESSING

MOVERS & GROOVERS

NHF PACKS PUNCH
NHF members won 8 out of 13 categories in this year's **British Hairdressing Business Awards**. **Michael Van Clarke**, London, clinched two categories – Customer Care Award and Retail Salon of the Year. **Creme Hair & Beauty**, of Oakham, Rutland, won Salon Design Award; **Barrie Stephen Hair**, Leicester, Salon Team of the Year; **Clay**, in Oxshott, Surrey, Independent Salon – Business Newcomer; **Hair Ott**, in Cosham, Portsmouth, Training Award; **Stuart Holmes Hair & Beauty Spa**, in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, Salon of the Year 1; **Tommy's Hair Company**, Chester; Salon of the Year 2 and **Ken Picton**, Cardiff, Innovation of the Year (Including Website of the Year).

RUSH TO WIN
Nearly half of this year's **British Hairdressing Awards** finalists are NHF members. **RUSH** was a finalist in four categories in the awards which take place at the JW Marriott Grosvenor House Hotel on November 22.

THE VAULT
Nicky Clarke has opened a **Gentleman's Grooming Vault** at his London salon, a private room on the lower ground floor, offering shaves, and contemporary haircuts. He described it as a new concept in men's hairdressing and facial grooming.

HOB JOB FOR PEACHES

The **hob** salon chain, famed for attracting celebs through its portals, recently gave fashionista, presenter and model **Peaches Geldof** a hob job at the Camden, north London branch, courtesy of creative colour director **Christel Lundqvist** who was the 2008 British Colour Technician of the Year, and nominee for the accolade again this month.



CHRISTEL LUNDOVIST WITH PEACHES GELDOF

HARINGTONS AIMS FOR 30

Haringtons has revealed it has four more potential franchises in the pipeline. **Robert Smith**, director, said: "Although we're not aiming for UK domination or anything, a maximum of 30 salons in the South East would be nice."