

# MPC (mobile phone company)

MPC was a company that provided encrypted phones to criminals.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Background

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James and Barries Gillespie were brothers involved in crime in [Glasgow](#).<sup>[1]</sup> They moved to Portugal to avoid being killed in a gang war while running their business.<sup>[1]</sup> Scottish police have named their gang the Escalade Group.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Encrypted phones

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Initially the brothers used phones from [Ennetcom](#).<sup>[1]</sup> They then hired developers to develop an [operating system](#) for their own phones and distributed them to their own gang and others they worked for.<sup>[1]</sup> They began selling the phones to other gangs.<sup>[1]</sup>

They sponsored blogger [Martin Kok](#) and ran advertisements.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

They also used intimidation tactics against mobile phone resellers.<sup>[1]</sup>

The phones they adapted were [Nexus 5](#) or [Nexus 5X](#) models.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Murder of Martin Kok

On 8 December 2017 Martin Kok was shot dead outside a sex club in [Laren](#), Netherlands.<sup>[3]</sup> Christopher Hughes faced charges of concealing money and supplying encrypted devices to others (including Kok), a second charge relating to the supply of cocaine and a final charge in relation to the murder of Kok.<sup>[4]</sup> In April 2022 Hughes was convicted at the High Court in [Stirling](#), [Scotland](#) and jailed for at least 25 years.<sup>[5]</sup>

[Ridouan Taghi](#) is also linked to the murder.<sup>[2]</sup>

The motive for the murder was blog posts that annoyed [Moroccan crime](#) figures with links to the Gillespie brothers. The brothers lulled Kok into a false sense of security by sponsoring him and running adverts on his site. They then arranged for him to be murdered by their associates.<sup>[2]</sup>

# Status

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As of October 2019 the company is closed.<sup>[1]</sup>

## References

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3. Barnes, David (2018-02-08). "The Strange Life of a Murderer Turned Crime Blogger" (<https://www.wired.com/story/the-strange-life-of-martin-kok/>) . *Wired*. Retrieved 2022-05-31.
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