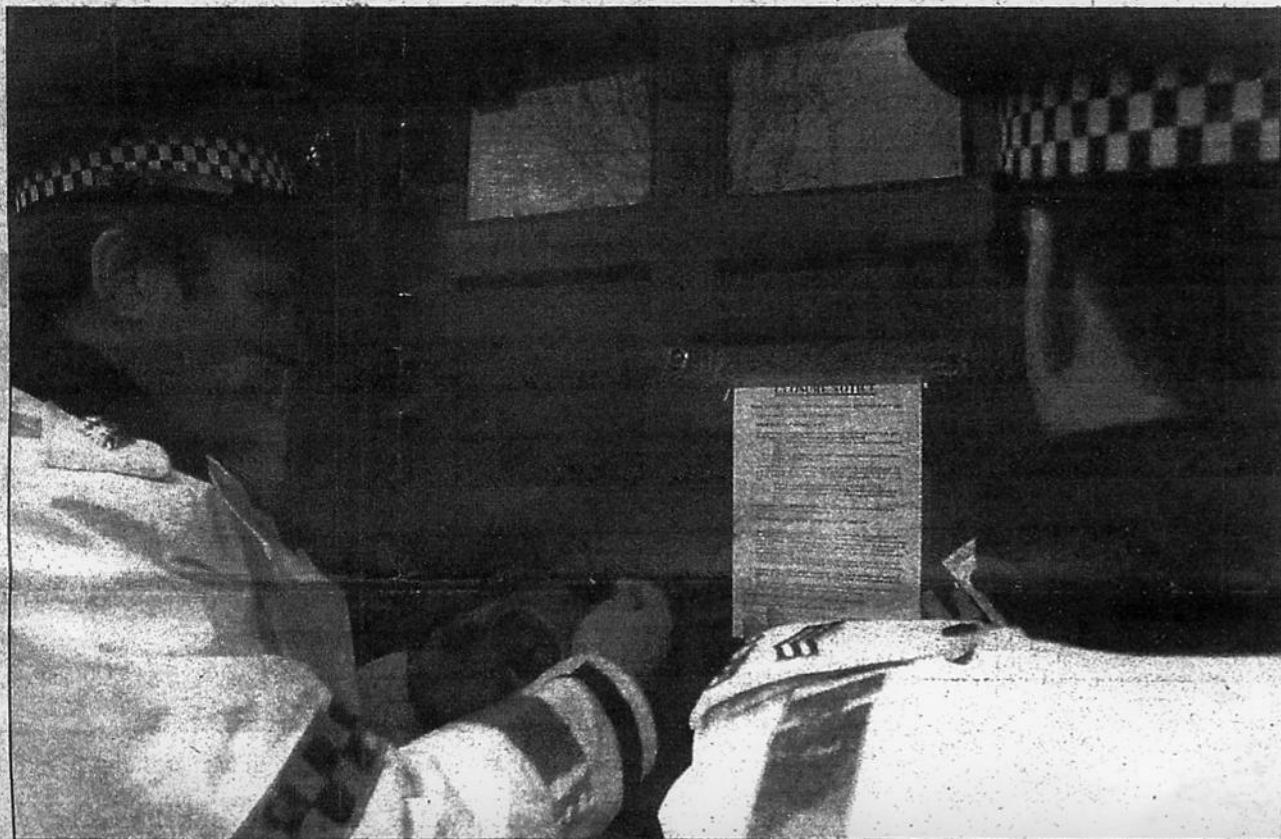


# Police shut Carlisle 'crack house'



**Crackdown:** Inspector Andy Shaddock tapes the closure notice to the house in Ridley Road

PHIL RIGBY

## NEWS & STAR EXCLUSIVE

BY NICK GRIFFITHS  
Crime Reporter

**POLICE** today launched a bid to shut a suspected drugs den in Carlisle.

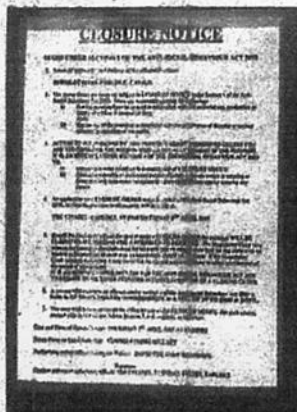
Officers moved just after midday to start the first so-called "crack house" closure action in the city.

A team of detectives and uniformed officers taped closure notices to the house in Ridley Road, Currock.

These notices stop anyone entering the property other than those living within.

The operation was the first stage of a legal process which will see police and housing chiefs try to have the occupants evicted.

Their evidence will be



### Warning: The notice

heard before magistrates in Carlisle tomorrow.

A squad led by Inspector Andy Shaddock arrived at the house, which is rented to

a woman in her 30s, but found no-one at home.

After knocking several times, Inspector Shaddock taped the closure notices to the front and back doors.

The notices state that officers suspected the house had been used in connection with the use, supply or making of class A drugs.

It also said that the house was "associated with the occurrence of disorder or serious nuisance to members of the public".

Uniformed officers were left at the house to stand guard.

The house is a Carlisle Housing Association property. The association worked with police during the lead-up to the operation.

These so-called "crack-

house" closures are performed to both thwart the sale of drugs and to try and end the misery neighbours have to endure living next door to hardened dealers.

The move is part of the force's crackdown on those they suspect of peddling hard drugs such as heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine.

Police say any illegal activity uncovered during the moves would lead to a criminal prosecution.

Today's action is the first time officers have tried to close a suspected drugs den in North Cumbria, but it follows other closures in the west and south of the county. Last month, police closed a suspected drugs den in Whitehaven after complaints from neighbours.