

# Drugs raid affects trade



Timepiece Tattoo Studio and Gallery proprietors Brian and Gigi Sweeney whose Newcastle business was without mains electricity for over a week.

By Lisa Ramsden

**A FLEDGLING business has been forced to turn away customers following a PSNI raid in Newcastle last week.**

Timepiece Tattoo Studio and Gallery was one of a number of premises forced to close after police uncovered hundreds of cannabis plants in a storage unit off the Dundrum Road, on New Year's Day.

The studio is owned by husband and wife team, Brian and Gigi

Sweeney, and has been operating in a small retail complex since October.

Their studio and neighbouring businesses were left without electricity after the drugs discovery, with Mr and Mrs Sweeney, and other traders, unable to access their properties for several days.

To date, no-one has been arrested in connection with the find. Airtricity reconnected the businesses to the power supply yesterday afternoon.

Mr Sweeney has criticised the way in which the follow-up operation affected his business, and explained that he and his wife had to turn

away much-needed business over the past eight days as they were unable to carry out their work.

Other nearby businesses resorted to using generators to help power their properties but, given the nature of the business the Sweeneys operate, this proved inadequate, forcing the couple to cancel bookings.

Mr and Mrs Sweeney are annoyed at the fact it took so long for businesses in the area to be reconnected to the power supply and that police failed to adequately update them. (to page 31)

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