



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

April 2013

Welcome to the latest issue of the Border Force Bulletin, which provides you with regular, accessible information on what's happening across Border Force.

Following our online survey, your feedback showed that you thought the bulletin in its current form clearly communicated Border Force work, that it was mostly relevant to your business and that you were happy with the style and length of it. You also provided helpful views on the topics you would like to include in future issues.

Please continue to give us your feedback by emailing the [Border Force Partners inbox](#).

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

The Easter period was once again extremely busy in terms of passenger traffic. For example, 94,300 passengers arrived in to Heathrow on Sunday 14 April 2013, with 33,000 of those at Heathrow Terminal 5. Overall we had strong performance across our ports with only a small number of queues exceeding waiting times with over 99% remaining within service level agreements.

▶ **Flexible Resource command** 

KLM Royal Dutch Airline, which recently merged with Air France, is set to run a twice daily service from Manston Airport to Schiphol in Amsterdam. Border Force is working in partnership with both KLM and Manston Airport management to ensure facilities and upgraded accommodation are in place prior to the start-up. The new

service represents an exciting new challenge for Border Force staff from the Flexible Resources Division led by Kevin Gardner.

▶ **E-Borders - National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC)** 

NBTC results for alerts issued to the border agencies (Border Force, Police and SOCA) and resultant arrests include a total of 3487 alerts between the four week period commencing 17 February 2013 to 7 March 2013, resulting in 198 arrests.

▶ **Regional changes** 

From 1 April 2013, a number of ports are no longer part of Border Force central region – Holyhead port in North Wales is now part of North region (led by Tony McMullin) and Fishguard, Pembroke and Swansea ports in South Wales have moved to South region (led by Carole Upshall).

Detections and seizures – highlights 

Border Force has over 7,200 officers working 24/7 at over 138 air and sea ports across the UK and overseas. The following are a small number of recent operations.

▶ **Cocaine worth £17m seized by Border Force in Essex**

An attempt to smuggle 168kgs of cocaine, worth an estimated £17 million, into the UK has been stopped by Border Force at Tilbury. [Read more...](#)

▶ **£90 million cocaine smuggling attempt foiled by Border Force Cutters**

Two Polish men were jailed for a total of 42 years after being caught smuggling almost half a tonne of cocaine on a yacht sailing near the Isle of Wight.

The Polish registered yacht was intercepted by HMS Valiant one of Border Forces' five fast patrol vessels known as Cutters. This was a significant seizure and the sentences given serve as a stark warning to anyone who attempts to smuggle Class A drugs at the border or within British territorial waters.

Anyone who has information on suspected smuggling or immigration offences can report it via our [website](#) or by calling the Border Force hotline on 0800 59 5000.

▶ **Nine million smuggled cigarettes seized at Felixstowe**

An attempt to smuggle an estimated nine million cigarettes into the UK has been foiled by Border Force officers at the Port of Felixstowe. Officers discovered the cigarettes on 17 April 2013 when they searched a container that had arrived at the port from Malaysia. Had the smuggling attempt been successful it could have cost the Treasury about £2 million in unpaid excise duty.

▶ **Man jailed over trafficking teenagers**

On Monday 11 March 2013 a man from North London was jailed for 14 years for being involved in the trafficking of two Nigerian teenagers, following a joint investigation involving Border Force. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Japanese drug smugglers jailed**

A gang of Japanese drug smugglers who attempted to bring cocaine worth almost £2 million into the UK have been jailed for a total of 25 years, following an investigation by Border Force.

▶ **Suspected smuggling attempts discovered by Border Force**

Border Force officers based at the Channel Tunnel have foiled two suspected smuggling attempts.

On Monday, 11 March 2013, officers based at the UK inward tourist controls intercepted a Polish-registered car transporter. On searching the vehicle officers found approximately 15 kilos of cocaine hidden inside. The drugs have an estimated street value of £1.5 million.

View [photos on Flickr](#).

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Border technology and transformation

▶ **Advance Passenger Information (API)** 

Recent increases in the volume of API means we are now collecting passenger information on 143.47 million passenger and crew movements per year, a further increase of one million pieces of passenger information took place during April.

▶ **Modernising our services - General Aviation Reporting** 

Border Force and the Police, in partnership with the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (AOPA), have developed a new web-based system for the submission of the General Aviation Report (GAR), which was launched on 8 April 2013.

The web-based system allows pilots, operators and owners to report quickly and easily to Border Force and the Police their arrival details for international and Common Travel Area (CTA) journeys to and from the UK.

In addition to this, we have held successful meetings with partners to support the General Maritime Cargo Shipping and Cruise Ship Pilots which are due to start in June 2013.

To find out more about the system, go to our [website](#) or email [Sean Gigg](#).

▶ **Border Systems Procurement (BSP)** 

Follow-up work on outcomes of the BSP Intellect event in February (which featured 140 delegates from 90+ companies) continues, with positive engagement, challenge and discussion ongoing with the supplier community. Preparation for the

procurement process is underway, with review and approvals processes initiated and ongoing.

For further information on any of the above email the [Border Technology Programme Stakeholder Management](#) mailbox.

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Partnership Working

▶ **Shoreham Airport Flight Expansion**

Border Force and Home Office Property Group have been assisting with the final improvements to a new terminal at Shoreham Airport. The terminal has been refurbished with new Border Force signage and includes essential immigration check point and customs examination area.

The airport had approval from the Civil Aviation Authority and Department for Transport to expand and accept a twice-daily flight from to Pontoise near Paris. Previously the airport could only accept Common Travel Area and non-scheduled general aviation traffic.

The work has been in partnership with Brighton City to transform part of the premises of KA Exec Handling into their passenger arrivals area.

For further information email [Hazel Willoughby](#).

▶ **Strategic Partner Group**

The second meeting of the Border Force Strategic Partner Group took place on 28 March 2013, chaired by the new Director General, Sir Charles Montgomery. At the group it was agreed that a new partner engagement strategy would be developed. There was also consent to hold the group annually, with a more strategic agenda and, in addition to the Air Carrier Group, to set up smaller, themed meetings to cover maritime operators as well as goods and people.

For a copy of the minutes or more details please contact [Border Force Partners](#).

▶ **Air Carrier Group**

The Border Force Air Carrier Group which took place on 29 April 2013, demonstrated healthy collaborative working. The next meeting is due to take place in July/August 2013, with a date to be confirmed shortly. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

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News Round-up

▶ **Strike action**

Border Force is excluded from the current PCS action. We will keep you updated on developments.

▶ **UK Border Agency splits into two new groups**

The UK Border Agency has been split into two separate entities – a UK Visa and Immigration service and Immigration Enforcement organisation, with Operational Systems Management handling the transition. This is part of a package of changes announced on 26 March 2013 [Read more...](#)

Also see the [oral statement](#) by the Home Secretary to the House of Commons on the future of UK Border Agency.

This only impacts on the UK Border Agency, but if you have any enquiries, you can contact [Border Force Partners](#), who will be happy to respond.

▶ **Protecting the public from terrorism**

The government has published its annual report on work to protect the UK from terrorism. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Border Force sniffer dog Tyke wins top TV award**

Tyke's journey from dogs' home to the dogs' life with Border Force has led to him the national stage at the 2013 Animal Honours Awards.

On the ITV awards hosted by TV celebrity Paul O'Grady, Tyke and handler Sam O'Connor won top spot in the working dog category – 'In the Line of Duty'.

The Heathrow-based Border Force detector dog was honoured in the national awards for his sterling work in safeguarding endangered species and stopping potentially harmful meat and dairy products from being smuggled into the UK.

Tyke, who started life in the world famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, is one of 74 sniffer dogs around the UK working alongside Border Force officers to detect banned and restricted goods at ports, airports, international rail stations and parcel depots.

Click [here](#) for the full story and view the programme on [ITV player](#) "watch the 2013 Animal Honours Awards on ITV1"

▶ **Border Force web pages go live on [homeoffice.gov.uk](#)**

Border Force has now moved its content to the new [GOV.UK](#) website. This is the new place for corporate and policy information from the Border Force. GOV.UK makes it simpler, clearer and faster to find out how government works, what it's doing and how you can get involved. More content will be added to the Border Force pages over the coming weeks.

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