



Border Force

Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

November 2013



This month sees the launch of the Border Force Christmas anti-counterfeiting campaign, which we hope you can raise awareness of with your customers. You can read about our partner engagement including: the BORDERPOL Congress in December, the Border Force industry engagement day on premium services, the Air Carrier Group and our presence at the International Herpetological Society Reptile Show.

We are also initiating a transformation programme in our regions and putting in place improvement projects, where research has shown they are needed. In addition there are some changes to the way we notify air carriers about potentially disruptive passengers.

This month we had one of our biggest seizures of cocaine in two years. Other seizures ranged from liquid amphetamine and heroin to seized products of endangered species.

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

▶ **Christmas anti-counterfeiting campaign**

Border Force is reminding Christmas shoppers to be wary of counterfeit goods in the run-up to the festive season. The three-week anti-counterfeiting Christmas campaign will be launched on 5 December and will raise awareness of Border Force's role in detecting commercial importations, infringing trademarks and brands

of registered companies. The campaign will run across a range of publications and channels to reach and engage with the public. A dedicated campaign webpage on the GOV.UK website will offer a wide variety of information to help people understand and to protect against dangerous counterfeit products.

▶ **Home Office response to John Vine report: freight operations**

The Border Force response to the recommendations of the Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration on Border Force freight operations can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

▶ **EU-Canada passenger name records agreement**

The government has decided to opt in on the council decisions to sign and conclude the transfer and processing of passenger name records (PNR) data agreement with Canada (European Union Document No's. 12645/13 and 12637/13).

▶ **Notification of potentially disruptive passengers**

On 11 November, we changed the way we notify air carriers about potentially disruptive passengers. This new written process will ensure we are meeting the requirements of paragraph 4.3 of the Annex to EU Regulation No. 185/2010, and to improve the process by providing additional information about other risks associated with the removal of the person from the UK.

▶ **National Border Targeting Centre (NBTC) **

Monthly NBTC results for October for alerts issued to the border agencies (Border Force, Police and National Crime Agency) and resultant arrests include a total of 3569 alerts, resulting in 381 arrests.

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Border technology and transformation

The Border Force is responsible, on behalf of the Home Office, for passport control checks at all UK airports. Key performance indicators are established for maximum queuing times at UK immigration.

▶ **Regional Transformation**

We are continuing to make improvements in our T2 premium service, border experience and outdoor operation at Heathrow. The Border Force transformation programme is initiating programmes in each of our regions, focused on enhancing border security, improving customer service and delivering productivity savings. We will concentrate on seven key themes: building leadership and management capability; engagement and communications; recruitment and training; modelling and rostering; process improvement; border experience (including Infrastructure); and attendance and HR training. We will start at major ports in each region but plan to look across all our operational areas, including the National Command Centre, National Border Targeting Centre, postal and sea freight.

▶ **Local Infrastructure Improvements**

Condition surveys for all major Ports and Airports within the UK and Juxtaposed sites are scheduled to be completed by the end of the month. To date improvement projects totalling £1.1m have been identified and are at various stages of delivery. Completed improvement projects during the last month include the provision of new dog kennel facilities at Birmingham Airport, new Border Force offices and primary check point (PCP) at Cambridge Airport, and the completion of phase 2 of the new Southend Airport. Other minor works continue to be identified, reviewed and delivered on an ongoing basis.

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Detections and seizures – highlights

Border Force officers use hi-tech search equipment to prevent illegal entry of people and detect smuggled, banned or restricted goods. They use many search techniques including detector dogs, scanners, carbon dioxide detectors and heartbeat monitors - as well as visual searches to find stowaways, controlled drugs, firearms and tobacco products hidden inside vehicles, freight, luggage and parcels.

The following are a small number of recent operations.

▶ **Border Force and the National Crime Agency (NCA) seize huge cocaine shipment**

Border Force officers, supported by the NCA have made what they believe to be the biggest cocaine seizure in Britain for more than two years. The drugs were discovered on board the ship MV Crown Jade, a Panamanian registered vessel that had travelled from Colombia and docked in Portsmouth on 26 October. Officers boarded the vessel that evening. A three day search, which involved NCA investigators and Border Force search teams uncovered around 850 kilos of cocaine, concealed amongst pallets of bananas. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Border Force seize amphetamine liquid and cannabis at Dover**

Border Force officers at Dover have seized approximately 11 litres of amphetamine liquid with a potential street value of £680,000. The drugs were discovered on 17 November when officers stopped and searched a Lithuanian lorry and its load of fibre boards. The amphetamine was found in a large water container in the vehicle's cab. Officer's also found approximately three-and-half kilos of cannabis in a plastic fuel can in one of the lorry's lockers. The cannabis has a potential street value of £37,000. The case has been passed to the National Crime Agency for further investigation.

▶ **Border Force clamps down on illegal trade in endangered species**

Border Force are clamping down on international crime groups that make millions of pounds every year smuggling endangered species into the UK. Seized products include illegal ivory, birds of prey, trophy animals and Chinese medicines containing ingredients such as rhino horn. There has also been an increase in the number of

'body beautiful' products, such as slimming supplements and face creams, containing caviar being smuggled across the UK border. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Smuggler jailed after £3.9million drug seizure**

Border Force found 24 kilos of heroin hidden inside a chapatti oven at Manchester Airport. A Birmingham man has been jailed for 12 years for attempting to smuggle drugs with an estimated street value of £3.9 million through Manchester Airport, following a joint investigation by Border Force and the National Crime Agency. When Border Force officers made the seizure on 7 June this year it was one of the largest single detections of Class A drugs at the airport. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Published Border Force statistics**

Border Force publishes various [statistics on GOV.UK](#) include: cost of each passenger processed at the Border; clearance of passengers at the border within published standards; drug seizures in the UK and tax revenue protected by the detection of undeclared goods.

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Partnership Working

▶ **New London Gateway**

Border Force commenced operations at the UK's newest port of entry on 6 November. London Gateway is a new deep-sea container port sited on the north bank of the River Thames. The port will add an additional 3.5 million containers to the UK's port capacity. It has six berths, the capability to handle ultra-large ships, and automated container-handling systems and controls.

▶ **Fire fighters – London Gateway**

Officers from Border Force central region raced to the new London Gateway port recently after a major fire broke out onboard a container vessel. The MV Zim Rotterdam, en route from the Far East to Felixstowe, had to dock at London Gateway after fire had damaged 20 containers on board

▶ **BORDERPOL Congress**

The 2nd World BORDEROL Congress, hosted by Border Force, takes place 3 – 4 December 2013. The Congress provides a platform for the world's border protection forces and agencies to discuss and debate the current and future issues and challenges facing the border management, security and migration management sectors. Further information can be found at www.borderpol-event.org.

▶ **Industry Engagement Day on Premium Services**

Border Force hosted an industry engagement day on 30 October to share proposals on a number of premium services, including fast-track services and VIP suite attendance. The event was attended by representatives of both ports and carriers and Border Force presented updates on the new generation of ePassport gates, the Registered Traveller Scheme, which is running as a pilot project in both Heathrow and Gatwick, and fast track Premium Service at the border. Attendees at the event agreed that there was a market for Premium Service and Border Force will now undertake further work to identify and offer different solutions to different ports.

▶ **Air Carrier Group (ACG) - feedback**

The ACG provides a strategic forum encouraging partnership working between the Home Office (HO) and aviation sector. Chaired by Border Force with policy providing the secretariat, SCS representatives across policy, Border Force, Immigration Enforcement and Immigration & Visa's ensures not only consistent messaging but that the sector understands how the commands across the HO operate. Since its establishment in January 2013, there is no doubt a closer working relationship between partners who now volunteer to work with the HO on projects, including: revising the process of how UK citizens can return home on emergency travel documents (ETDS); and the transit visa review. More recently in this forum the Electronic Visa Waiver was first discussed in detail. The next meeting is due to take place in mid February 2014. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

▶ **Man arrested after frozen owls found in Essex**

A 49 year old man was arrested after twenty-five stuffed birds were recovered from a freezer in a house in Essex. The frozen birds are being examined to determine how they were killed. The man was also detained on suspicion of trading in endangered species following a search of his property in Stanford-le-Hope. In addition, the man was also detained on suspicion of evading customs regulations relating to endangered species. It follows a joint inquiry involving the National Crime Agency (NCA), Border Force and the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

▶ **Snakes at the races – CITES team**

Officers from the Border Force national CITES team at Heathrow, were invited to showcase their work at the International Herpetological Society (IHS) Reptile show, at Doncaster race course in September. More than 3,000 people turned up to the show. Show organiser Richard Brooke, said: 'It was a great pleasure having the Border Force CITES team at our recent reptile show.'

▶ **Baylee the sniffer dog goes to school**

Border Force drug sniffer dog Baylee, his handler and other Border Force officers based at Stansted Airport got a warm welcome from pupils when they visited Hillmead Primary School in Bishop's Stortford. They spoke to children in years 3 and 4, who are spending this term learning about airports and travel, about Border Force work; how people come into and out of the country; and the importance of keeping everyone safe.

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News Round-up 

▶ **Home Office targets business travellers with new premium visa services**

Government announces further improvements to the visa system to attract the brightest and best to work, do business and invest in the UK. This includes the launch of the GREAT Club, an invitation only service providing top business executives with bespoke support from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). The Club

will start in the New Year as a 12 month pilot aimed at around 100 global business leaders who use the visa service and have strong links to the UK. [Read more...](#)

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