



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

June 2014



Message from Sir Charles Montgomery, Border Force Director General

Welcome to the June edition of the Border Force Partner e-Bulletin. I am committed to Border Forces' effective communication with our partners and keeping you updated on latest developments.

It was a privilege to attend the ceremony on 23 June at which Her Majesty the Queen officially opened the new Terminal 2 at Heathrow Airport. The visit provided me with another opportunity to see the impressive new environment that around 250 of my Border Force Officers will work in, which is now getting increasingly busy as more operators are using the facility. I would also like to thank our partners who we have worked alongside us to ensure the smooth opening of Terminal 2 at Heathrow Airport.

This month's e-bulletin contains useful information on the next stage of rollout of ePassport gates across UK airports. You can also find out more about the Modern Slavery Bill which was introduced to Parliament this month.

The Partner Bulletin is now available on GOV.UK at Border Force/Publications.

Please continue to give us your feedback by emailing the Border Force Partners inbox.

Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

▶ **Her Majesty officially opens Heathrow Terminal 2**

On 4 June the Queen officially opened the new £2.5bn Terminal 2 building at Heathrow Airport. The new terminal will be staffed as part of a Border Force joint command with Terminal 1. The primary checkpoint will have approximately 250 officers in post and will process 20 million passengers a year. It includes 10 of the latest generation ePassport gates.

Heathrow's new terminal was opened to passengers on 4 June, but there will be a phased opening of the building over the next six months. The airlines currently using the terminal include United Airlines, Air Canada, All Nippon Airways and Air China. Over the next months the other airlines set to join them are Egyptair, Ethiopian Air, Scandinavian Airline (SAS), TAP Portugal and SWISS.

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Border technology and transformation

▶ **Gatwick's new ePassport gates mark 1 million milestone**

Over one million passengers have now used the ePassport gates at Gatwick South Terminal. ePassport gates enhance the passenger experience and help improve Border Force efficiency. More than 50 per cent of eligible passengers are now consistently choosing to use them at Gatwick South. During June ePassport gates have also been introduced at Glasgow Airport and Heathrow Terminal 2 and the UK's ePassport gates are now processing more passengers using facial recognition than any other country in the world.

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Detections and seizures – highlights

▶ **Carpet ploy used to conceal heroin**

Border Force officers at Manchester Airport seized a large amount of heroin which was hidden inside a shipment of carpets that had arrived from Peshawar in Pakistan via Abu Dhabi. A detector dog alerted its handler, with further examination revealed a highly sophisticated concealment where the drug was woven into the fabric of the

carpet. Around 50 kilos of heroin were found, a haul amongst the largest drug seizures ever made at Manchester Airport.

▶ **Couple sentenced for cocaine smuggling**

A couple have been found guilty of attempting to smuggle two and a half kilos of cocaine worth an estimated £234,400 into the country. They were arrested as they drove through tourist controls in Dover's Eastern Docks whilst returning from Germany. After officers searched the vehicle they found the cocaine in black wrapped packages inside the centre console and in the wiper motor chamber. Forensic testing found DNA on the packaging that matched the pair. At the trial at Canterbury Crown Court on Friday 6 June they were sentenced to seven years imprisonment and for two years suspended for two years, respectively.

▶ **Two Tonnes of cannabis seized at Channel Tunnel**

Border Force officers at the Channel Tunnel entrance in Coquelles, France seized approximately two tonnes of cannabis resin on 5 June. The drugs have an estimated street value of £5 million and were found when officers stopped and searched a Spanish-registered lorry and its load of furniture. The driver appeared at Canterbury Magistrates Court, charged with the importation of drugs. He pleaded not guilty, and was remanded in custody. Following the seizure by Border Force, the investigation is being carried out by the National Crime Agency (NCA).

▶ **Cocaine worth £8.7m found in boat in Portsmouth International Port**

At Portsmouth International Port Border Force Officers seized 175kg of cocaine. It was found on board a ship carrying bananas from Columbia in a joint investigation with the National Crime Agency (NCA). The drugs were discovered when the ship docked at Portsmouth. After a search by officers the cocaine was found in the hold of the vessel, in containers carrying thousands of boxes of bananas. The cocaine had been split into small packages hidden within the cardboard of the boxes. The ship had been bound for Belgium.

▶ **Asylum Seeker rescued from English Channel in dingy**

Border Force and Dover Lifeboat had to rescue a Mongolian Asylum seeker attempting to cross the English Channel to Dover in a blue rubber dingy. The 36 year old man had managed to cross 12 miles of the channel from Calais before being picked up by the life boat. He was located eight miles south of Dover, in the world's busiest shipping lane. He was handed to Border Force Officers when he arrived at Dover. Last month an Afghan migrant tried to reach the UK on a raft made of planks of wood and a bedsheet, before being picked up by the French coastguard.

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Partnership Working

▶ **Working with National Crime Agency to stop trafficking from West Africa**

Officers from Border Force, the National Crime Agency (NCA), and Home Office Immigration Enforcement have taken part in a major European operation to tackle human trafficking from West Africa. The operation, which took place on Wednesday

11 June, focused on a number of inbound flights to Heathrow Airport, a major European transit hub for West African flights, with the aim of detecting potential victims and gaining intelligence on the organised crime groups involved in trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. As part of the operation Home Office Immigration Enforcement liaison officers in Lagos and Madrid worked with local law enforcement agencies to provide extra intelligence and conduct checks on those travelling to the United Kingdom. You can read more about it [here](#).

▶ **Air Carrier Group**

The Border Force Air Carrier Group met on 5 June 2014. There were constructive discussions with British Airways, easy Jet and Virgin on issues including the Border Force transformation programme. The forum aimed to identify opportunities for increased co-operation and how to improve border checks. More information can be obtained through [Dan Smith](#).

▶ **Aviation regulation views sought by the Civil Aviation Authority**

A consultation has been launched by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) entitled “Let there be flight” to review the policy framework regulation for the general aviation sector. They are seeking views and feedback from aviation sector partners to help inform their policy development. The consultation closes on the 31 July, you can find out more by clicking [here](#).

News Round-up 

▶ **Modern Slavery Bill set to target traffickers**

The Modern Slavery Bill has been introduced into Parliament. It is set to be the first of its kind in Europe, and one of the first in the world, to specifically address slavery and trafficking in the 21st century. It will give law enforcers the tools they need to target today’s slave trade, ensure perpetrators are punished and improve support and protection for victims. There will be provisions in the Bill to stop, search and divert a vessel where the operator is suspected of committing a modern slavery offence. You can read more [here](#).

▶ **The rights of European citizens and their spouses to come to the UK: Inspecting the application process and the tackling of abuse**

An inspection of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Home Office’s handling of this European casework by John Vine CBE QPM, Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, was published on 19 June. This inspection examined the efficiency and effectiveness of the application process for EEA nationals seeking registration certificates, as well as for non-EEA partners and spouses applying for residence cards. It also looked at how the Home Office deals with fraudulent applications for European documents, in particular applications through marriages of convenience (sham marriage), and the investigative and enforcement activity that takes place in such cases. You can read more about the inspection [here](#).

▶ **Home Secretary welcomes new system for Chinese visas**

In a speech on 16 June the Home Secretary Theresa May welcomed the fact that a pilot application service is to be extended to all Chinese nationals applying to come to the UK. This means that the visa application processes for all Chinese visitors to the UK are to be streamlined. The change means Chinese visitors to the UK and the European Union's Schengen area will be able to work from just one form, rather than completing two entirely separate visa applications. Read more about Chinese visas [here](#).

► **Scottish independence referendum – ‘In the Know’ factsheets**

The UK Government has published a set of [In the Know factsheets](#) which summarise the key findings of the 14 Scotland analysis papers produced over the last eighteen months. These include two on Home Office related topics: [Borders and Citizenship](#) and [Security](#). The factsheets are complemented by a booklet launched this month by Scottish Secretary Alistair Carmichael explaining [what staying in the United Kingdom means for Scotland](#). The 16-page booklet provides everyone in Scotland with information so they have the opportunity to make an informed decision in September.

Published statistics

Statistics on migration and border control can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

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Border Force Communications

Email: BorderForcePartners@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8196 3763

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