



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

Issue 7

August 2013

This month, Immigration Minister Mark Harper has been visiting our ports. Read about his experience at Killingholme container terminal in North Lincolnshire and his visit to Calais and Coquelles, where he saw first-hand the work of Border Force officers.

Border Force officers in Belfast welcomed more than 7,000 competitors to the World Police and Fire Games in August – a popular sporting event for serving and retired police, fire, prison and border security officers.

In the last month, we seized a range of items including cocaine, heroin, counterfeit one pound coins and counterfeit cigarettes. Two people have also been charged in connection with a Border Force money laundering investigation.

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Key: for information; invitation to action

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Operational updates

▶ **Immigration Minister hails Killingholme Border Force officers**

Border Force officers were personally thanked by Immigration Minister Mark Harper, during his visit to the Killingholme container terminal in North Lincolnshire last month, after a series of successful seizures. A total of 5.3 million counterfeit cigarettes were seized. Had the smugglers succeeded, they would have cost the UK approximately £1.2 million in unpaid VAT and excise duty.

During his visit, the Minister also saw the technology used to identify smuggled contraband goods. Sniffer dog Norman, who has detected 11 tonnes of illegally imported tobacco and seven million cigarettes in the past year, also got a special pat on the back.

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

Between 28 July and 17 August, 3,830 NBTC alerts were issued to the border agencies (Border Force, Police and SOCA) which resulted in 109 arrests.

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Border transformation 

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

▶ **Heathrow transformation programme**

The programme continues to embed improvements into operations at Heathrow, and the success of these will be monitored over the summer peak period. Change practitioners have been mobilised and trained to support the primary control process improvement project. So far, three processes have been reviewed and opportunities for improvement have been identified – implementation plans are now being developed. The programme is also working closely with Heathrow Airports Limited to deliver infrastructure improvements and processes to make the border experience better for passengers.

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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. They also carry out 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 successful operations.

▶ **Border Force seizes cocaine and heroin at the Channel Tunnel**

Border Force officers are investigating after an estimated 10 kilos of cocaine and two kilos of heroin were seized at the Channel Tunnel.

The officers stopped a German-registered car at the Channel Tunnel entrance in Coquelles, France on 12 August. On searching the vehicle they found the drugs,

with an estimated street value of up to £750,000, concealed in an area behind the rear seats.

▶ **Border Force seizes cocaine on banana boat**

Border Force officers are investigating after they seized 40 kilos of cocaine from a cargo ship at Dover on 6 August. Deep rummage team officers searched and found the drugs in one of the offices on board MV Santa Lucia, which was carrying bananas from Willemstad, Curacao. The drugs, once cut and sold on the streets, have a potential value running into millions of pounds.

▶ **Two charged in money laundering investigation**

A man and woman have been charged in connection with a Border Force money laundering investigation. On 22 April they answered bail and were charged with conspiring to conceal, disguise, convert, transfer or remove criminal property, contrary to section 327 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. A second charge of arranging the facilitation of the acquisition, retention, use or control of criminal property contrary to section 328 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 was also laid against both. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Border Force seizes counterfeit coins**

Border Force officers are investigating after they seized £7,450 in counterfeit one pound coins. The coins were discovered by officers at Dover's Eastern docks when they stopped and searched the baggage of two passengers travelling on a coach from Amsterdam on 30 July. Two large bags containing the coins were found inside one of the suitcases.

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Partnership Working

▶ **Immigration Minister sees Border Force in action**

During a visit to Calais and Coquelles, Immigration Minister Mark Harper saw first-hand how Border Force prevent six Syrian nationals reaching the UK. They were discovered by detector dog Bounder and Border Force officers on board a lorry at Calais. Earlier that day, Border Force officers discovered another 19 people attempting to pass illegally through border controls by hiding in the back of a refrigerated lorry. The UK's border controls in France and Belgium are a unique example of international co-operation and allow most security checks to be carried out on passengers and vehicles before they travel to the UK.

▶ **Border Force welcome World Police and Fire Games (WPFG) competitors**

Border Force officers in Belfast welcomed more than 7,000 competitors to the WPFG in August – a popular sporting event for serving and retired police, fire, prison and border security officers. Officers worked closely with the Police Service of Northern Ireland's (PSNI) licensing body in the run up to the Games and in particular with firearms and border security. Extra measures were put into place by Border Force to support Northern Ireland firearms legislation.

The Games were branded as the 'friendliest games ever' by the press, which many contestants reported was helped by the warm welcome at the border.

▶ **Air Carrier Group (ACG)**

Mandie Campbell, Border Force's Chief Operating Officer, chaired the third Air Carrier Group, a high-level meeting with the Aviation Sector on 13 August. There were productive discussions on a wide range of topics including data sharing, airline risk assessment, and improvements in freight targeting, queues, misdirected flights and the carrier's liability consultation. The next meeting is due to take place in November 2013 – a date will be confirmed closer to the time. For more information, you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

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News Round-up 

▶ **Home Office response on the John Vine Report**

The department's response to the recommendations from the Independent Chief Inspector's (ICI) report on the inspection of juxtaposed controls is available on GOV.UK. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Home Secretary extends consultation into use of stop and search**

Members of the public are being given an extra six weeks to have their say on stop and search, the effectiveness of this power, which is especially important in relation to combating gangs, knife crime and drug offences, after the consultation was extended to 24 September. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Diversity strategy: progress report, 2010 to 2013**

The progress report charts the Home Office's collective achievements over the third year of the diversity strategy and sets out the priorities for 2013 to 2016. [Read more...](#)

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