



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

Issue 6

July 2013

This month you can read about the Home Office's response to the publication of the first joint HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on Border Force customs custody suites in England and Wales.

You can help raise awareness about the rules around what travellers can and cannot bring into the UK through our seized campaign. We have also published a leaflet about children travelling to the UK, which explains why we stop and ask questions at the border and our duty under the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to safeguard travel and promote the welfare of children.



You can also read about record numbers of ePassport gate transactions recorded for June, with over one million passengers using the gates to pass the UK border.

Also find out about our interesting seizures this month and knuckle dusters, flick knives, replica firearms, throwing stars and a Japanese samurai sword, seized so far this year at Manchester airport.

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](#).

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

▶ **Opening of Weymouth Port**

The Condor Ferry service to the Channel Islands returned to Weymouth from Poole on 17 July 2013. The port of Weymouth had been closed since February 2012 due to quayside structural problems. Weymouth offers the shortest route to the Channel Islands from the South Coast in respect of crossing times. Border Force Officers in Poole have been able to continue to conduct operational activity on the Channel Islands traffic during the time the ferry has operated from Poole. Border Force Dorset will retain responsibility for anti-smuggling and operational functions at Weymouth port on its re-opening.

▶ **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 4484 alerts in June resulting in 320 arrests.

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Border technology and transformation

Border Force is responsible, on behalf of the Home Office, for passport control checks at all UK airports.

▶ **Record breaker**

June saw the highest number of ePassport gate transactions on record, with over one million passengers using the gates to pass the UK border.

Since they were first introduced at Manchester airport terminal 1 in 2008, more than 21 million passengers have used our ePassport gates, with an average of 8-900,000 users each month.

There are currently 63 working gates in 15 air terminals across the UK – including Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton and Edinburgh airports – allowing low risk, EU travellers to be processed while officers target the higher risk passengers.

▶ **Border Force transformation programme – new uniforms**

As part of the transformation programme there is a project to deliver a new fit for purpose uniform, to help create a single border force culture and identity.

▶ **General Maritime Collaborative Business Portal (CBP) pilots**

The border technology programme is conducting two pilot programmes in the general maritime sector to make it easier for them to report their journey, crew and passenger details to Border Force.

Many different forms of crew and passenger information are received from general maritime. The Collaborative Business Portal (CBP) system is going to be piloted as

a way to harmonise reporting methods into one coherent set of information requirements.

The programmes, to be trialled in Scotland and Southampton through participating commercial shipping and passenger liners respectively, will have no adverse impact on passengers or crew, as carriers already submit data to Border Force.

▶ **Heathrow transformation programme - getting the balance right**

As the summer peak period approaches Heathrow operational resources are focused on ensuring that the balance between operational and programme work is appropriate to meet both needs. The border experience project is now underway with clear scope being developed with Heathrow Airport Limited. The three workstreams are focusing on: mapping processes to identify improvements; addressing infrastructure issues, including the installation of additional ePassport gates; and developing our customer insight and strategy. Engagement continues with Gatwick and Manchester Border Force operations to initiate the expansion of transformation to other regions.

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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.

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

A group of six would-be illegal immigrants were stopped from reaching the UK after Border Force found them hiding in a lorry in Calais.

Immigration Minister Mark Harper last week saw first-hand Border Force prevent six would-be illegal immigrants from reaching the UK as he visited Calais and Coquelles.

Detector dog Bounder and Border Force officers discovered the six Syrian nationals aboard a lorry at Calais on Wednesday 24 July. [Read more...](#)

▶ **Dangerous weapons seized from holiday flights at Manchester Airport**

Knuckle dusters, flick knives, replica firearms, throwing stars and a Japanese samurai sword are among items seized so far in the last year by Border Force officers from passengers at Manchester Airport.

Many passengers have bought in items while on holiday believing that they are legal in the UK because they are on general sale in resorts in countries like Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria.

With the busy summer holiday season fully underway, Border Force is reminding travellers heading abroad to think carefully before bringing back holiday 'souvenirs'.

[Read more...](#)

▶ **Woman jailed for £1M Edinburgh Airport cocaine smuggling attempt**

A woman has been jailed for more than three years for attempting to smuggle cocaine worth £1 million in her luggage at Edinburgh airport. She was stopped and questioned by officers and her suitcase was examined and x-rayed. Inside was uncovered 4.7 kilos of cocaine in three blocks. Following examination, the drugs were found to have an estimated street value of £1,081,200.

▶ **Three arrested after Heathrow cocaine seizures**

Three men have been arrested after Border Force officers at Heathrow Airport made three separate seizures of cocaine in one day.

On 23 June, 7 kilos of the drug was found impregnated in the linings of a sleeping bag and rucksack, and the soles of a pair of shoes; around 6 kilos of cocaine was discovered hidden in the linings of a number of coats being carried in luggage; and a 56-year-old man arrested on suspicion of attempting to import around a half a kilo of cocaine.

If sold in the UK it is estimated the combined 13.5 kilos seized would have had a street value of approximately £1.3million.

▶ **Drug smuggler who hid opium inside chocolate jailed**

A Birmingham man who attempted to smuggle nearly £100,000 of opium into the UK hidden inside bars of chocolate has been jailed for nine years. Border Force officers at Coventry International Postal Hub intercepted two parcels containing 6.36 kilos of opium with an estimated street value of £95,400.

Officers arrested the man near his home address after he had accepted delivery of the parcels. The parcels had been sent from Turkey and the drugs had been hidden inside hollowed out bars of chocolate. A further 128g block of opium was uncovered in the garage when the premises were searched.

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Partnership Working

▶ **Response to inspectorate report into Border Force's custody facilities**

The Home Secretary and the Director of Border Revenue welcome the publication of the first joint HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report on Border Force customs custody suites in England and Wales and are pleased to publish the [Border Force response](#).

▶ **Border Force officers ‘(bow-)wow’ Civil Service Live**

Replica guns, ivory tusks, counterfeit passports, Vietnamese cobra wine and bear bile were displayed at the Border Force stand at this year’s Civil Service Live ‘Be exceptional’ event at Olympia in London.

Border Force officers with displays including seized CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora) goods drew in fascinated crowds all day, including Sir Jeremy Heywood (Cabinet Secretary) and Dame Ursula Brennan (Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice).

Detector dogs Ruby and Lucy, from the Border Force Gatwick dog unit, also put in appearances throughout the day to (bow-)wow delegates even further.

▶ **Border Force cutter sails at Belgian Navy Days**

HMC Valiant, one of five Border Force cutters, was the pride of the UK this month after taking part in the Belgian Navy Days for the first time. Valiant was one of 16 vessels from nine nations taking part in the annual sea festival held at the Belgian port of Zeebrugge from 6-7 July. The cutter was the only UK non-military operational vessel taking part in the event.

Visitors were invited on board the Valiant to have a look round and talk to her crew about life on board and the role of Border Force in protecting the UK border.

▶ **Seized Campaign: Going abroad this summer? Don’t risk it all**

Border Force is looking to raise awareness amongst both travellers returning to the UK, and those visiting the UK this summer, about the rules around what they can and cannot bring into the UK.

Help us raise awareness by using your website, facebook or twitter channels to include a message to travellers and would be travellers (or members that communicate with them).

To find out about the rules go to GOV.UK.

▶ **Certificate of merit award from Kent Police**

The Border Force Frontier Crime Unit, based at the Port of Dover were recognised for their joint work with Immigration Enforcement and Kent Police investigating immigration linked crime. The units’ officers were awarded with certificates of merit, at Kent police Headquarters, Maidstone, Kent last month.

▶ **Air Carrier Group (ACG)**

The next meeting is due to take place in 13 August 2013. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

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News Round-up 

▶ **Travelling with children**

Every day thousands of children arrive at the UK border, many return from holiday with their family or with family friends. The safety and welfare of every child is of utmost importance to us and sometimes we may ask a few questions if an adult is not the child's parent, or has a different family name.

Our "Children Travelling to the UK" leaflet explains why we stop and ask questions at the border and our duty under the Borders Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009 to safeguard travel and promote the welfare of children.

For more information please visit GOV.UK.

Border Force - Charity of the year

Border Force is holding its first Charity of the Year partnership with Marie Curie Cancer Care and would like to ask for your support. This exciting initiative, aligned with our public service ethos, will allow us to contribute to society beyond our usual business role.

We are keen to start raising funds as quickly as possible and will be holding a national raffle. If as one of our key partners, we have not yet approached you and you would be willing to support this venture by donating a prize, please email [Carole Upshall](mailto:Carole.Upshall), Regional Director.

▶ **Balance of Competences Review – Call for Evidence**

On 16 May 2013, the Home Office launched Calls for Evidence for the EU Balance of Competences Review into the areas of Asylum & Immigration and Free Movement of Persons.

The Calls for Evidence invite individuals and organisations with expertise or experience of the impact of the EU in the areas of Asylum & Immigration, or Free Movement of Persons to submit objective, factual information.

You can find more information about these reports, including the Calls for Evidence, on GOV.UK. Alternatively, you can e-mail the Immigration and Borders Secretariat.

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