

Essential information for Border Force's partners

Dec 2013 - Jan 2014

In December we officially launched the new generation of ePassport Gates at Gatwick South Terminal, with a further target of 130 new gates at various sites in the next three years. We also ran a joint Border Force and Trading Standards public campaign warning festive shoppers to be careful about what they buy and where they buy it from to avoid fuelling the illegal trade in counterfeit goods.

On 1 January 2014, we saw an electronic visa waiver come in for Emirati, Omani and Qatari passport holders, amendments to the European Economic Area (EEA) regulations and restrictions on the free movement of workers from Bulgaria and Romania being lifted.

In this partner bulletin you can also read about the success of the General Aviation Report (GAR) and how we have been acting on your suggestions to make improvements to the online GAR system.

Please continue to give us your feedback by emailing the <u>Border Force Partners inbox</u>.

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Key: 1 for information; **2** invitation to action

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Operational updates

Sailing a leisure craft to and from the UK @

Anyone who owns, or is responsible for, a leisure craft that sails to or from locations outside the UK is required to provide vessel and goods documentation. For VAT purposes, the Channel Islands are treated as being outside the UK and the European Community. Border Force is working with the maritime community (both owners and operators) to find a solution to collecting vessel and goods information

in advance of travel and ensuring the community is represented in the process. Read more...

Electronic Visa Waiver 10

From the 1 January 2014, Emirati, Omani and Qatari passport holders will be able to obtain an electronic visa waiver to travel to the UK. The new Electronic Visa Waiver is free of charge and is a quick and straightforward alternative to a visit visa application. Those eligible for the visa waiver will be able to travel to the UK after completing and printing a short online form, 48 hours before travel. We intend to extend similar arrangements to Kuwait later in 2014. Read more...

Public Accounts Committee's report on Border Force 1

The Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) report on Border Force drew on the balanced report issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) earlier this year, which highlighted many positive aspects of our operations, as well as areas for improvement. Achievements include full checks at the primary control point (PCP); service level agreements (SLAs) with port operators exceeded; targets for highest harm seizures exceeded or on track for exceeding. Border Force has already exceeded its annual target for class A freight, new psychoactive substances, strategic export seizures, and clandestine detections at juxtaposed ports with four months to go. The full report can be found on the parliament website.

Theresa May praises Dover staff **U**

The Home Secretary, Theresa May was impressed by Border Force staff based in Dover. She commented that the Port of Dover was a "very impressive operation" that the whole country could be proud of and that staff were "committed, effective and enthusiastic". She pointed out that an estimated 100,000 fewer people were due to come into the UK this year than in 2010.

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Border technology and transformation **U**



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.

Next generation of ePassport gates opened at Gatwick

The Immigration Minister, Mark Harper, officially launched the new generation of ePassport Gates at Gatwick South Terminal on 4 December 2013. The state of the art machines allow passengers with an electronic chip in their passport to pass quickly and efficiently through immigration controls. ePassport gates have proved popular with travellers. More than 10 million passengers have used them across the UK in the past year with numbers now operating at 1 million a month. London Gatwick now has the largest single bank of ePassport gates at any port in the UK. Read more...

ePassport Gates roll out continues

Roll out of new ePassport Gates is being accelerated to enhance customer service and national security. The target is a minimum of 130 ePassport Gates over the next three years at 14 existing sites and nine new sites. Plans are already in place to install new Gates at Heathrow Terminal 2 in February 2014, ready for opening in June 2014. The implementation of additional ePassport gates elsewhere at Heathrow's Terminals 3, 4 and 5, as the first phase of the border experience project, brings the number of gates in each bank up to five in each terminal, delivering a much needed increase in capacity. Plans are also in place for new gates at Manchester T2 and Glasgow for launch by April 2014.

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Detections and seizures – highlights 0



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.

Cocaine seized by Border Force at Gatwick

A man has appeared in Croydon Magistrate Court on 10 January after Border Force officers at Gatwick seized approximately 1.3 kilos of cocaine. The drugs, which were discovered on Thursday 9 January, once cut and sold on the streets, had a potential value of £130,000. The man pleaded guilty and will be sentenced at a later date. The investigation was passed to the National Crime Agency for further enquiries.

Man arrested after Manchester Airport coral seizure

Border Force officers have seized endangered coral after a suspected attempt to smuggle it through Manchester Airport. A man from Walsall has been arrested on suspicion of attempting to smuggle the coral and has been bailed pending further enquiries. The case has been passed to the National Crime Agency (NCA) who is continuing to investigate.

Woman charged after Border Force seizes cocaine at Heathrow

A 61-year-old woman from Cambridgeshire has appeared in court after Border Force officers at Heathrow Airport seized approximately 6 kilos of cocaine. Following a search of luggage, powder was found which tested positive to cocaine. The approximate street value of the drugs is £240,000. The case has been passed to the NCA for further investigation.

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

Anti-counterfeit Christmas 0



Border Force and Trading Standards launched a public campaign in December warning festive shoppers to be careful about what they buy and where they buy it from to avoid fuelling the illegal trade in counterfeit goods. Border Force officers have stopped millions of pounds worth of fake goods from entering the UK in the run-up to Christmas. Read more...

General Aviation @



Since the online General Aviation Report (GAR) portal was launched, we have seen a steady increase of reports submitted using this method, reflecting the view of many pilots that online submission is a convenient way to send arrival details to Border Force. GARs are essential to the security of the country. They help us determine and deal with dangerous individuals and smuggling threats without hindering legitimate movement of people or goods. This means that essential checks can be dealt with efficiently and that Border Force teams can be directed to the highest risk areas. Your pilots can find more information and guidance on how to complete flight reports on GOV.UK.

Online General Aviation Report (GAR) system improvements 0



We have been acting on your suggestions to make improvements to the online GAR system, in particular, a new way to notify you of flight details. From 9 December airfield owners and operators will receive an enhanced GAR receipt that includes: aircraft registration; expected arrival and departure details; departure port; number of crew; number of passengers and; journey reference. This means that when a pilot sends a GAR online, you will receive an email notification from the online system providing the date, time and number of people arriving and departing from your airfield. These improvements are a direct result of working in partnership to find a solution that meets both our business needs.

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News Round-up 0



New immigration rules

The amendments to the European Economic Area (EEA) regulations came into force from 1 January 2014. This means that EU nationals who are administratively removed from the UK from 1 January 2014 will not be able to re-enter for 12 months - unless they can satisfy a Border Force officer that they will be immediately exercising treaty rights. The changes will also provide powers to tackle sham marriages and take enforcement action against EU nationals who create barriers to removal by repeatedly exiting and re-entering the UK and those who fraudulently acquire a right to reside in the UK.

The Immigration (European Economic Area) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2013 can be found at legislation.gov.uk.

Restrictions for Bulgarian and Romanian workers lifted

Restrictions on the free movement of workers from Bulgaria and Romania were lifted on 1 January 2014. Bulgarian and Romanian citizens are now able to fully exercise their right to work in all EU countries without a work permit, though there have been restrictions put on the benefits they can receive.

UK and US launch taskforce to tackle child abuse

Policing Minister Damian Green launched the first meeting of the 'US-UK taskforce to counter online child exploitation' at the US Department of Justice in Washington on 9 December 2013. The taskforce builds on the government's wider work to tackle child abuse and clean up the web, including working with Google and Microsoft to prevent offenders accessing child abuse images online via search engines and strengthening the UK's capability to combat abuse through the newlyformed National Crime Agency (NCA). Read more...

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