



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

Issue 4

May 2013

This month saw Border Force officers attending an Illegal Wildlife Trading conference at St James' Palace where they explained their work in preventing wildlife crime. The event was hosted by their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge



Border Force drug seizure statistics for 2012/2013 were published, showing an increase of 50% in seizures since the split from the UK Border Agency and a 55% drop in the quantity of seizures. Data on clearance of passengers at the border within published standards was also published resulting in work beginning to improve the approach on how we measure waiting times.

In addition this month saw a considerable amount of seizures, including drugs, coral, clams and nine Grey Francolin birds.

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

The programme of improvements continues across Border Force with work underway to implement a more robust and consistent approach to methods of queue measurement across all ports on entry. Our business plan for 2013-14, which sets out the organisation's vision and strategy for delivery, is due to be published shortly.

Drug seizures made by Border Force in the UK

Drug seizure stats for 2012/2013 includes the number of seizures made, by drug type, for all drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the volume of seizures made on the main drug types.

Comparison of drug seizures made by Border Force (previously UK Border Agency) in first half of 2012-13 with the first half 2011-12 shows that the overall number of seizures increased by 50%. Cocaine seizures increased by nearly 8%, with the quantity seized falling by around 30%. [Read more...](#)

Clearance of passengers at the border within published standards

The service standards are to clear 95 per cent of European Economic Area (EEA) passengers within 25 minutes and 95 per cent of non-EEA passengers within 45 minutes.

A recent audit of the methods used to measure waiting times found variations in the approaches being used. As a result of the recommendations made, work is underway to implement a more robust and consistent approach across all ports on entry. [Read more...](#)

► 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 3697 alerts between the four week period commencing 14 April 2013 to 5 May 2013 resulting in 239 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. Key performance indicators are established for maximum queuing times at UK immigration. As part of our overall passenger service monitoring programme, Heathrow has an independent team that provide a [monthly record of queue lengths](#).

Border Technology Programme Name Change

As part of wider changes at the top of Border Force, including Sir Charles Montgomery appointment as the Senior Responsible Owner of the Border Technology Programme, it has been decided to rename the overarching programme as the Border Systems Programme, which we believe better reflects our role in delivering new capability into the business operation and ensuring that we implement end to end operational systems.

► Border Force National Transformation Programme

Border Force is implementing a robust programme of improvements to support our vision of a world-class organisation. Projects within the programme will transform Border Force into a law enforcement organisation with intelligence at its heart which

provides an excellent service to customers and is characterised by first class leadership, empowered and trained staff and supportive technology. Working closely with colleagues in the Heathrow Transformation and Border Systems Teams we are driving a number of ambitious projects which include the provision of a new, fit for purpose Border Force uniform; defined standards for leadership and management at every level and a number of schemes to improve the passenger experience.

► **Border Force Transformation Programme at Heathrow**

The Heathrow operation continues to benefit from the additional resources and increased management capacity and capability at all levels, facilitated by improved command and control structures and tools. There have been 405 operational posts filled and a leadership and management learning pathway is being rolled out.

Border Force is committed to improving the customer experience of passengers passing through UK ports. An important part of this work is to consider the range of premium services on offer to high value passengers, including the provision of a fast track queuing service at the border. Trials are being carried out at Heathrow to develop the most effective services.

For further information on any of the above email the [Border Technology Programme Stakeholder Management](#) mailbox.

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Detections and seizures – highlights

Border Force has over 7,200 officers working 24/7 at over 138 air and sea ports across the UK and overseas. The following are a small number of recent operations.

Man jailed for smuggling coral and clams

A Manchester man has been jailed after Border Force caught him attempting to smuggle endangered corals and clams into the UK. [Read more...](#)

Birds smuggled in suitcases found at Leeds Bradford Airport

Two separate attempts to smuggle birds into the UK inside suitcases have been prevented by Border Force officers at Leeds Bradford Airport. On each occasion the birds had been placed in individual wooden cages, hidden inside suitcases belonging to passengers arriving at the airport on flights from Islamabad. [Read more...](#)

Two charged after cocaine hidden in cakes seized at Gatwick

Two British nationals from the West Midlands were arrested by Border Force officers at Gatwick airport's South Terminal on 16 May 2013. They have been charged after the drugs were discovered inside cakes in baggage and seized. They are suspected of attempting to smuggle an estimated 10 kilos of cocaine with a potential street value of £1m.

Would-be illegal immigrants caught in lorry at Portsmouth

Two illegal immigrants from Albania were detained by Border Force officers after being discovered in a load of stone being carried by a lorry which had arrived on a ferry from Caen on 15 May 2013. [Read more...](#)

Two charged over Gatwick cocaine seizures

Two men aged 62 and 82 have been charged with attempting to smuggle cocaine into the UK via Gatwick Airport. They arrived at the airport's South terminal at around 10.30am on Thursday 2 May 2013 on a flight from Montego Bay and between them are suspected of attempting to smuggle an estimated two kilos of cocaine, with a potential street value of around £200,000.

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Partnership Working

Stopping Wildlife Crime at the Border

An Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Conference, hosted by their Royal Highnesses, The Prince of Wales and The Duke of Cambridge, was held in Clarence house, St James's Palace, in aid of the Royal Foundation on 21 May 2013.

Border Force officers from the Endangered Species (CITES) team attended, showcasing seized animal products and explaining how they prevent wildlife smuggling. [Read more...](#)

European Day for Border Guards

Border Force has hosted a stand at the European Day for Border Guards in Warsaw to share our experiences on securing the UK border. The event is a unique forum in the world of border security and management enabling representatives from EU border authorities, partner states, industry, academia, NGOs and civil society groups to all come together to share insights and experiences, as well as lay out a vision for the future. One of the event's underlying goals is to encourage a community of EU border guardianship with shared values and priorities. [Read more...](#)

Tax revenue from undeclared goods

Information about the annual amount of tax revenue that is protected by detecting goods on which excise has not been declared, the quantity of goods liable to excise duty that were detected and the rate of duty that applies to these goods.

We work collaboratively with HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to produce data for this indicator. It is for revenue protected on tobacco goods (cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco) seized and on alcohol (spirits, beer and wine, cider and Alco pops) detected at the border and referred to HMRC. [Read more...](#)

Border Five Heads of Intelligence Conference (HINT)

Border colleagues from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and United Kingdom attended the HINT conference, hosted by the Border Force Intelligence Directorate in May 2013. Sir Charles Montgomery, Director General, welcomed the first day delegation to the conference chaired by Kevin Franklin, Border Force Head of Intelligence. The conference had an action packed agenda which included a visit to the Heathrow Command and Control Centre to explore our operations in detail and set the direction for future activity within the HINT forum.

► Couple convicted of baby smuggling attempt

A couple from Oxford have been convicted of attempting to pass off a Nigerian baby as their own so they could bring it back to the UK, following a joint Border Force and Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) investigation. [Read more...](#)

► Air Carrier Group

The next meeting is due to take place in July/August 2013, with a date to be confirmed shortly. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

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News Round-up

► Balance of Competence Review: Free Movement of Persons and Asylum & Immigration

The government is carrying out a review of the Balance of Competences between the EU and UK. This is an audit of what the EU does and how it affects the UK. The Home Office is leading on a report on asylum and immigration and is additionally leading on one on free movement of persons, with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

The Calls for Evidence for both reports were launched on 16 May 2013 and will close on 5 August 2013. To find out more go to [GOV.UK](#).

► Fake goods stopped at the border on BBC's Fake Britain

The new series of Fake Britain continues with Border Force officers detaining counterfeit goods that have been sent through the post.

The BBC followed officers working at the Coventry postal hub and viewers will see officers intercept fake designer clothing and footwear as well as counterfeit medicines.

Border Force officers work around the clock at ports, airports and international postal hubs to detect illicit goods, illegal drugs and weapons.

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