



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

September 2014



The summer period has now come to a close and despite the high levels of passengers crossing the border in the last few weeks of the holidays, Border Force maintained high performance standards and achieve notable successes in our fight against organised crime. Our targeted intelligence has been tremendously successful this summer, in the past month the total number of cigarettes seized as a result of targeting in maritime was in excess of 40 million sticks. This targeted intelligence enables us to focus on particular ports, utilise our resources effectively to facilitate the legitimate movement of individuals and goods, whilst preventing those that would cause harm from entering the UK.

This month the Border Force CITES Team at Heathrow were described by the Chief Executive Officer of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), as being a **global leader** at tackling wildlife crime, our delivery of CITES training to more than 30 countries worldwide demonstrates the ongoing professionalisation of our workforce, and highlights that Border Force is already achieving "best in the world" status in some areas.

Despite large increases in passenger numbers in the last week of the summer holidays, 99% of queues remained within service standards. This underlines the Border Force commitment to offer a world class customer experience to both our business partners and passengers.

As part of Border Force's commitment to delivering excellent customer service, the roll out of next generation ePassport gates continues apace, with 3rd generation ePassport gates being installed at London City Airport this month. There are now over 100 gates operating at 12 of our busiest airports. Despite the seasonal pressures on our operations, there has been no let up in the pace of our transformation programme which you can read more about in this bulletin.

Sir Charles Montgomery, Director General, Border Force

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

▶ **Securing the Port of Calais**

Border Force is continuing to work to strengthen security at the Port of Calais. The joint Anglo / French Ministerial Declaration made on 20 September sets out plans for the UK government to commit £12m to a joint fund over the next three years in order to improve port fluidity and bolster border security. Improvements to infrastructure will be complemented by joint security initiatives which include targeting organised crime groups responsible for people trafficking and smuggling. Border Force are working in close partnership with the French authorities and will meet early next month with CCIC, the organisation who operate the port of Calais, and the French Police (PAF) to agree the scope of work and early actions.

Plans for Border Force strengthening physical security by investing in thermo-detection security cameras and enhanced secure perimeter fencing are underway both at the Port of Calais and the Channel Tunnel at Coquelles. This comes on top of £3m invested to upgrade vehicle scanning equipment featuring the latest technology which helps detect people hiding in lorries and tankers. Border Force are committed to being a professional and operationally robust organisation, ensuring that our borders remain secure and passengers will continue to be processed with minimal disruption.

▶ **High praise for Border Force CITES Team**

Border Force has been described as a 'global leader' in the fight against wildlife crime, by one of the world's leading animal welfare and conservation charities. The Chief Executive Officer of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW),

Azzedine Downes, praised the force after a recent visit to London. During the visit he went to the animal reception Centre at Heathrow Airport where he saw how Border Force destroys all seized ivory.

As well as meeting representatives of Border Force's Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) team, he also saw how the UK's multi agency partnership approach to wildlife crime investigation works. It brings together the police and the National Wildlife Crime Unit who combine resource to apprehend more wildlife criminals. Border Force's delivery of CITES training to more than 30 countries worldwide is also helping to support wildlife conservation globally as we work to be the best Border Force in the World.

▶ **Border Force rises to the challenge in last week of summer holidays** 

The last week of the summer holidays brings with it high numbers of passengers arriving at UK ports and this year was no exception. Despite the large increase in passenger volumes, 99% of queues remained within service standards, underlining the Border Force commitment to offer world class customer experience to both our business partners and passengers.

▶ **Preparations for changes at Heathrow** 

Over the coming months, Border Force will continue to work on phasing staff transfers to Terminal 2 in preparation for the closure of Terminal 1 in 2016. In the meantime, Terminal 1 will be staffed as a satellite facility serving four airlines. When the Terminal 2 operation is fully functional as part of a joint command it will have approximately 250 Border Force officers in post and will process 20 million passengers a year. The checkpoint includes 10 of the latest generation ePassport gates. Border Force will ensure that it offers an excellent experience to passengers through this period of change.

▶ **Bringing food, fruit, vegetable and plant products into the UK** 

There are very strict controls on what food, fruit, vegetable and plant products can be brought into the European Union (EU). This is because food and plants can carry pests and diseases, which can devastate our environment, and our agricultural and horticultural industries. Border Force work hard to prevent anything that would cause harm from entering the UK. The Foot and Mouth outbreaks in 2001 and 2007 and the recent discovery of infection of native ash trees by the fungus *Chalara fraxinea* have shown what a damaging effect an animal or plant disease can have on communities, business and the economy. Information on [what fruit, vegetable and plant products you are allowed to bring into the UK](#), are on [GOV.UK](#). Partners are encouraged to share this information with customers via their channels.

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Border technology and transformation 

▶ **Now ePassport gates technology rolls out at London City Airport**

Updating of technology at ports across the UK has continued as London City Airport became the latest airport to have 3rd generation ePassport gates installed during September. In the past year, the number of ePassport gates in use across the UK

increased by over 60%. There are now over 100 gates operating at 12 of our busiest airports, with new installations at Manchester, Stansted, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Heathrow and Glasgow Airport. More passengers use ePassport gates in the UK than any other country in the world, with over 1 million passengers consistently using ePassport gates each month, reaching 1.4 million in the summer months. This has ensured we use the best technology available to give excellent customer experience and keep passenger queues to a minimum at our ports.

▶ **On going work towards Exit Checks**

The new powers in the Immigration Act will now enable carrier and port operator staff to play a role in carrying out exit checks, which are set to start from April 2015. Exit checks will mean it is possible to confirm a person's departure and make it easier to identify those at risk of overstaying. Ongoing trials are helping to identify and establish the best and least intrusive method for delivering exit checks. This involves Border Force working closely with carriers, rail, maritime and air port operators to understand what will work best in each environment. If you would like to know more about exit checks please contact [Fiona Mackay](#).

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Partnership Working

▶ **Modern Slavery information film available** 

As part of the government's continued communications campaign on Modern Slavery, the Home Office launched a film in collaboration with The Salvation Army, the NSPCC and other charities. It is aimed at professionals who may come in to contact with potential victims such as staff in ports, and airline staff. It explains how frontline professionals have an important role to play in identifying and safeguarding victims and contains information on the types of labour exploitation victims can face, as well as advice on the signs to look out for.

The film is available to view on the Home Office YouTube channel found [here](#) and partners are encouraged to share it via their channels. The film is part of a suite of resources that are free to use – these can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

▶ **Airshow re-launches Project Pegasus in Scotland** 

An Airshow held this month in Ayrshire was used to re-launch Project Pegasus in Scotland. The multi-agency campaign aims to encourage the public and law enforcement partners to join the fight against serious and organised crime and terrorism by reporting unusual activity around small aviation sites.

The show-piece partnership campaign is delivered in Scotland by Police Scotland, the National Crime Agency and Border Force. The initiative encourages people close to small airports to report unusual activity, threats and vulnerabilities associated with general aviation. The campaign covers all aviation with the exception of commercial passenger flights and large-scale airfreight. You can read more about the campaign [here](#).

▶ **Maritime Sector Group Meeting** 

The Maritime Sector Group last met on 11 August. Items discussed included: Calais and Dover transformation; clandestine penetration; and cruise clearance procedures. The next meeting of the group is being arranged for November. For more details please contact [Alessandra D'Annunzio](#).

▶ **Air Carrier Group meeting** 

The Air Carrier Group last met on 5 June. The Group will meet again on 15 October. We are currently developing the agenda for that meeting and any suggestions from air partners would be gladly received. For more details please contact [Alessandra D'Annunzio](#).

News Round-up 

▶ **Modern Slavery Bill continues through Parliament**

The Modern Slavery Bill has now entered its committee stage in 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. It will also help Border Force to help secure our borders and prevent human trafficking. 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. Further information can be found [here](#).

▶ **Threat-level is raised from substantial to severe**

Recently the Home Secretary announced that the threat level from international terrorism has been raised from substantial to severe. This means a terrorist attack is highly likely, although there is no intelligence to suggest that one is imminent. The increase in the threat level is related to developments in Syria and Iraq where terrorist groups are planning attacks against the West. Border Force will continue to work closely with ports, airports, operators and all our other partners to maintain a secure border and minimise disruption. You can read more about this [here](#).

Detections and seizures – highlights 

▶ **Fake toys seized by Border Force at Stansted**

Fake building blocks, which were destined for the streets of the UK, arrived in Stansted last month. Officers discovered 2,315 figures and assorted kits, many of which related to DC Comics and Marvel characters like Iron Man, Batman and Spiderman. The goods, which had been listed as “plastic blocks for decoration”, had been sent to the UK from China in four separate packages with a declared value of just \$365. An investigation was launched by Border Force and LEGO has now confirmed that all the goods, which will now be destroyed, are breaches of their copyright. Read more about this story on [GOV.UK](#).

▶ **Targeted efforts increase detections of Smuggled Cigarettes**

Targeted intelligence by Border Force combined with efficiencies delivered by new technology has led to a strong increase in the numbers of cigarettes detected through targeting throughout this summer. It has been a similar success story in

terms of detections of Class A drugs. There has been particular success in the Maritime environment, particularly with sea containers. In August, the total numbers of cigarettes seized as a result of targeting in maritime was in excess of 40 million sticks. Border Force has enhanced its targeting capability, assisted by technological improvements, as a part of the wider transformation in Border Force intelligence.

A range of changes, both to structure and to process, have been undertaken in targeting. The changes aim to strengthen the focus on local variations in traffic and procedures that make each port different to the next. A more bespoke range of intelligence products that reflects that vulnerabilities at each individual port is an important factor in continuing the recent successes. Border Force allow the legitimate movement of individuals and goods, whilst stopping those that would cause harm from entering the UK.

▶ **£10m Fake Cosmetics Seized by Border Force at Channel Tunnel**

Border Force officers at the Channel Tunnel entrance in France have seized around 578 boxes of counterfeit cosmetic gift sets with a potential value of up to £10 million. The seizure was made in the early hours of 28 August as officers carried out checks on a Dutch-registered vehicle en route to a business park in Newcastle-under-Lyme. The Border Force team inspected the load and it soon became clear that the cosmetic sets and their packaging were of inferior quality. The goods were seized and the investigation has been passed to Kent County Council Trading Standards.

▶ **Seizure of Cocaine made at Plymouth Port**

Border Force officers have seized around 100kg of cocaine from a lorry at Plymouth port. The seizure was made when officers searched a lorry carrying concentrated orange juice that had arrived on the ferry from Santander. A large quantity of cocaine was found concealed in the trailer. A man from the Manchester area was arrested and later bailed until November pending further inquiries. Officers use an array of search techniques including sniffer dogs, carbon dioxide detectors, heartbeat monitors and scanners to find well hidden drugs to secure our borders and prevent harmful substances entering the UK.

▶ **Cocaine seized at Gatwick Airport**

A woman from St Lucia has been charged with drug smuggling after Border Force officers at Gatwick Airport seized a quantity of class A drugs. The woman was stopped shortly after arriving on a flight from St Lucia. Following searches, officers recovered around 340g of cocaine. She was arrested by Border Force and later appeared at Croydon Crown Court, being remanded in custody until 30 October.

Published statistics

Statistics on migration and border control can be found on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).

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Email: BorderForcePartners@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8196 3763

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