



Border Force



# Border Force Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners



Issue 1

February 2013

Welcome to the first Border Force Bulletin, a regular update to provide you with accessible information on what's happening across Border Force. We hope you find it useful.

As this is the first one, we would like to gather your views so please let us know what you think by completing this short [online survey](#) which will take you approximately five minutes to fill in.

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

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## Operational updates

Following a busy 2012 we are now implementing a robust programme of improvements to maintain performance now and in the future. This includes a substantial recruitment programme with over 400 new staff joining Border Force. We've also set up and launched our National Command Centre (more details below) to better manage staff deployment and we have implemented new staff rosters and improved demand and resource modelling.

### ▶ **New Director General of Border Force**

Sir Charles Montgomery has been appointed as the new Director General of Border Force. Tony Smith will continue as acting Director General until Charles takes up his post on 19 March. [More...](#)

Further details will follow over the next few weeks.

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▶ **Queue performance** 

99% of passengers were cleared within service standards in the second quarter 2012 - 2013. [More...](#)

December's performance for Heathrow can be found on their [website](#).

▶ **National Command Centre (NCC) opens** 

The NCC provides, for the first time, a national capability for 24/7 incident management, decision making and resource planning/deployment for Border Force. The unit also leads for Border Force in any national level critical incident with Border Force impact or involvement and acts as your single point of contact for any real time national level operational issues.

▶ **Drug seizure statistics published** 

There were 216,296 drug seizures by the police and the UK Border Agency (UKBA)/Border Force in England and Wales in 2011/12, a two per cent increase on 2010/11. [More...](#)

▶ **Border Policing Command update** 

As a command of the National Crime Agency (NCA), the Border Policing Command will have a substantial and effective operational law enforcement capability and will lead the operational effort to strengthen UK border security.

The command will join NCA and partner assets at the border and overseas to tackle serious, organised and complex crime before it reaches the UK. The command will take responsibility for the investigation of all detections at the border of drugs, firearms and other crime related to prohibited and restricted goods. It will have a skilled and dedicated physical presence at UK ports through which it will collect, develop and disseminate intelligence and undertake operational activity.

The current timing is that the NCA will be fully operational by December 2013, subject to Parliamentary processes.

For more information please go to the [Home Office website](#).

▶ **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 4,900 alerts between week commencing 9 December and 13 January 2013, resulting in 237 arrests.

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## Border Technology

We are committed to using technology to improve border security and facilitate the legitimate entry to the UK of goods and people. Our use of automation is focused on the clearance of passengers, detection, effective

targeting systems for freight, and the screening of passengers and freight for radiological and nuclear material. The following provides the latest on some of the initiatives within this area.

#### ▶ **ePassport Gates**

Following on from some excellent results over the Olympic period, we have now recorded the highest ever ePassport gates transaction rate with over 629,470 successful transactions during December 2012, which is over 445,800 more than this time last year.

The opening times of all our gates are now available and we have begun providing these to partners to promote to their customers. Please get in contact at [Border Force Partners](#) if you've not received this information yet.

#### ▶ **IRIS**

After seven years, IRIS, the first biometrically enabled automated border control system installed in the UK, has formally closed at a number of key ports in the UK. IRIS no longer operates at Birmingham, Gatwick, Manchester and Heathrow Terminals 1 and 4. Barriers at Heathrow Terminals 3 and 5 will continue to operate. We will provide information on the work we are undertaking for registered travellers as soon as possible.

#### ▶ **Pre-Departure Check Scheme (PDCS)**

The PDCS will notify carriers of passengers who pose a risk to passengers, crew and aircraft. New system capability is to be delivered during 2013 followed by a phased implementation with carriers.

For further information please contact [Kate Evans-James](#).

#### ▶ **Border Systems Procurement**

The Prior Information Notification (PIN) for the Border Systems Procurement was published on Tenders Electronic Daily, the European public procurement journal on 22 December 2012. This formally starts the engagement with the supply market and a number of requests for further information from interested suppliers have already been received.

For further information please contact [Kate Evans-James](#).

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### **Detections and seizures – highlights**

Border Force has over 8,200 officers working 24/7 at 138 air and sea ports across the UK and overseas. The following are a small number of recent operations.

▶ **Illegal immigrants caught at Harwich**

Border Force officers have been praised for a successful operation at the port of Harwich and the impressive joint response that followed. On 10 January 2013, 24 male Kuwaiti Bidoon stowaways, who had set sail from Holland the previous evening, were apprehended following a search of the vehicle. The driver was arrested and has since been released on bail pending further enquiries. He could face a fine of £2,000 per stowaway.

▶ **Plaistow man jailed for drug smuggling**

A man from Plaistow who attempted to smuggle high purity cocaine worth £143,000 into the UK through Heathrow Terminal 5 on 2 December 2012, has been jailed for four years. Officers had requested he undergo an x-ray following which he admitted to swallowing 11 packages containing drugs. Forensic tests later revealed that the total weight was 1.16kg. The cocaine was 82 per cent pure and would have had a street value of around £143,000 if cut and sold in the UK.

▶ **Cocaine seizure at Gatwick**

Border Force officers at Gatwick Airport have made what is thought to be one of their biggest ever seizures of liquid cocaine. The drugs weighing approximately 80 kilos, with an estimated value of around £8million if cut and sold on the street, was found hidden in a consignment labelled foodstuffs, amongst tins marked as containing carrot juice.

▶ **Two tonnes of tobacco seized at Dover**

An attempt to smuggle more than two tonnes of hand-rolling tobacco into the UK through Dover has been foiled by Border Force officers. If the haul had not been intercepted it could have cost the Treasury about £328,000 in unpaid excise duty.

▶ **Cocaine seizure at Channel Tunnel**

Border Force officers are investigating after approximately five kilos of cocaine, with an estimated street value of £500,000 were seized at the Channel Tunnel entrance in France.

▶ **Men jailed for £90 million cocaine smuggling attempt**

Two Polish men caught smuggling almost half a tonne of cocaine on a yacht sailing near the Isle of Wight have been jailed for a total of 42 years. They were arrested in June 2012 after their vessel, Baila, was intercepted by Border Force officers on board HM Cutter Valiant.

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See the latest photos on seizures on the [Home Office Flickr photostream](#).

▶ **Strategic Partner Group**

A new Border Force Strategic Group, chaired by Tony Smith, interim Director General, met on 28 November 2012. The group consisted of a broad range of representative and trade organisations. The group is next due to meet on 28 March 2013. For more details please contact [Border Force Partners](#).

▶ **Air Carrier Group**

Border Force chaired a new quarterly Air Carrier Group on 21 January 2013. The group consists of partners from the air carrier sector. It encourages partnership working, active pursuit of joint objectives, feeding back into strategic border policy and operational developments, and allows members to raise any issues or concern around the operation and management of the border. The date of the next group is still provisionally booked for the end of April 2013.

Consideration will be given to additional cross Home Office working groups such as maritime in the future. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

▶ **'Rogue Haulage Firms Targeted in Regional Crackdown On Organised Crime'**

Border Force is working with its law enforcement partners in the North West region to target haulage firms and truck drivers involved in organised crime. The campaign started in November and runs throughout 2013. [More...](#)

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**News Round-up** 

**New permanent secretary for the Home Office**

Mark Sedwill has been appointed as the new Permanent Secretary for the Home Office. [More...](#)

▶ **Border Force South and Europe regional reorganisation**

Border Force South & Europe region has split into two smaller regions; Border Force South and Border Force South East & Europe.

The Director for the Border Force South region is Carol Upshall and she is based at Gatwick. The region encompasses South Central (including Southampton, Portsmouth and Newhaven), South West locations (including Bristol, Plymouth and Poole), Gatwick Airport and the Cutters (Maritime and Aviation). Paul Morgan is the Director for Border Force South East & Europe region and is based at Folkestone, this region includes the juxtaposed ports of Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk, Eurostar ports and Dover.

▶ **Management changes in Wales**

Border Force staff based at Welsh ports will be managed from different regions from 1 April. This change will allow closer cooperation between staff based at Bristol and Cardiff and between those at Manchester and Holyhead, and will allow us to better support operations in Wales.

Our lead for the Welsh Assembly is Carole Upshall and for the Common Travel Area activity it is Tony McMullin. Please contact [Border Force Partners](#) if require further details.

▶ **Anti-counterfeit Campaign**

In the run up to Christmas Border Force ran an anti-counterfeit campaign to better explain to the public the work Border Force undertakes to support legitimate businesses and to warn of the risks of buying fake and counterfeit goods. The campaign ran across a number of media and partner channels to get the message out. You can find out more on the [Home Office counterfeit web pages](#).

The Border Force, protecting the UK from a fake Christmas video can be viewed on [YouTube](#).

Try our '[dodgy or delux](#)' counterfeit quiz to see if you can spot the counterfeit product.

▶ **Sea City**

Three-part BBC One documentary series going behind the scenes at the Port of Southampton, meeting staff and seafarers and taking a look at everyday tasks and momentous events at the port. [More...](#)

▶ **Border Force and UK Border Agency Games effort recognised**  
Heathrow Airport won Best Arrivals Experience 2012 and Gatwick Airport won the Best Security and Immigration Experience award at the Future Travel Experience conference in Vancouver.

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