



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

July 2014



Welcome to the July edition of Border Force partner bulletin.

The last of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games guests have been welcomed at Glasgow airport this month. The efficient welcome process developed in conjunction with Glasgow Airport, Police Scotland, Glasgow 2014 and Border Force has ensured that those arriving to take part in or support the Games had a smooth and positive welcome at the airport.

Also in this months bulletin you can read about roll out of ePassport gates at Edinburgh Airport as well as news on progress on other technological innovations. Improvements we are making at ports will be complemented by a new "Crossing the Border" information campaign aimed at helping to speed up the time it takes to process passengers through Ports..

You can also find out more about the work Border Force officers, both in the UK and abroad, are undertaking to provide crucial extra intelligence and carrying out additional checks to prevent Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Teams of officers have been specially trained, with the help of the Metropolitan Police, to identify and protect potential victims travelling to and from the UK and stop the perpetrators.

There is also more information about the Modern Slavery Campaign which the Home Office have launched this month and aims to raise awareness on this important issue.

Finally I would like thank those who we worked with early in the month whilst we managed the Industrial Action of staff at ports to ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum. We put in place a critical incident staffing plan which helped to reduce

the impact on our operations, and therefore it was largely business as usual at our ports.

Sir Charles Montgomery, Director General, Border Force

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

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Operational updates

▶ **Commonwealth Games are go!**

Border Force has been busily welcoming the last of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games guests. The week before the start of the games saw over a thousand Games Family Members arrive and pass through Glasgow airport. During the arrival of Games guests the coaching lounge was used as a welcome area to ensure all arrivals ran as smoothly as possible. Working closely with Glasgow Airport, Police Scotland and Glasgow 2014 has ensured that guest have experienced a positive welcome to Glasgow.

▶ **Advising passengers “Crossing the Border”**

To improve the passenger experience, Border Force is developing a campaign called “Crossing the Border”. Its aim is to increase awareness and understanding of the simple steps passengers can take to help speed up their journey through passport and customs control; such as removing sunglasses and hats, having their passport ready, not bringing in banned goods and encouraging eligible passengers to use ePassport gates which have been installed at several airports around the country. Updated posters, leaflets and closer working with other government departments will ensure a more joined up approach. For more information go to [Entering the UK](#) on the GOV.UK website or contact [Neil Lands](#) for more information.

▶ **Border Force targets 'high risk' flights at Heathrow to stop female genital mutilation**

Border Force, the Metropolitan Police, and the National Crime Agency have been carrying out a joint initiative aimed at preventing and detecting cases of female genital

mutilation (FGM). So far it has already led to significant arrests. The proactive airside operation looks at inbound and outbound flights to 'countries of prevalence' for FGM. Officers will keep a look out at airports through the busy summer period to identify girls who may have been affected by FGM and warn passengers that it was illegal to arrange for a child to be flown abroad for the procedure. The initiative was launched in May as a co-ordinated national week of action with several UK Airports and a number of police forces.

▶ **Project Kraken set to protect our coastlines**

Project Kraken, a joint initiative being delivered in partnership by the NCA, Border Force and police forces across the country is re-launching this coming weekend at the start of Cowes Week which runs from 2⁹ August. The multi-agency law enforcement campaign aims to raise awareness to the people living or working on and around the UK's coastline and waterways of the need to report suspicious or unusual activity.

The UK coastline is made up of a network of estuaries, navigable rivers, coves, inlets, ports and harbours. Project Kraken will strengthen intelligence and enhance our ability to prevent threats or illegal activity along any of these waterways. The campaign directs people to report anything suspicious or unusual to either the police through the 101 number, or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, quoting "KRAKEN". You can read more [here](#).

▶ **Gearing up for Student arrivals**

Border Force has produced a helpful list of 'Top Ten Tips' for first time students arriving this autumn to commence their studies in the UK. As well as having passports ready and landing cards filled out, if coming to study for more than six months, students will need to show their Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) number.

The tips are designed to ensure students are not unduly delayed as they enter the UK by being more prepared for what they may need to present at border control and what other documentation will need to be kept to hand in case that needs to be presented too. It also reminds them about not bringing in any meat or dairy products from outside the EU and restrictions on other food products such as fish, eggs and honey, as well as some fruit, vegetables and plants. Border Force is asking its partners to share these top tips through their communication channels. If you would like more information please contact [Neil Lands](#).

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Border technology and transformation

▶ **Latest ePassport gates technology now in Edinburgh Airport**

Passengers travelling through Edinburgh Airport are now able to use the latest ePassport gates technology, as five 3rd generation gates were installed at the airport this month. ePassport gates help speed up the time it takes passengers to be processed and helps to improve Border Force efficiency.

Over the past few months the latest ePassport gate technology has also been introduced at Glasgow Airport and Heathrow Terminal 2. The UK's ePassport gates

are now processing more passengers using facial recognition than any other country in the world. Stansted is the next port identified for the roll out of ePassport gates.

▶ **Registered traveller success for ePassport gates**

The Registered Traveller (RT) pilot has now made the ePassport gates at all Gatwick and Heathrow terminals available to fully enrolled RT members who hold a registered Biometric passport. The pilot service is open to former IRIS passengers, aged 18 and above, from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, who are either visiting the UK in one of the eligible categories or hold Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), Tier 1 (Investor, Entrepreneur and Exceptional Talent/Promise) or Tier 2 (Skilled Workers) leave and have travelled to the UK four times or more in the last twelve months.

The pilot will continue to take new applications for RT membership until 31 August 2014 and remains free of charge. Membership of the pilot will remain valid until further notice in Autumn 2014. The RT service has so far been used over 4000 times, saving RT members time on each entry into the UK.

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Partnership Working

▶ **Maritime Group meeting**

The 2nd Home Office Maritime Sector Group is scheduled for 11 August 2014. This Home Office-sector quarterly forum discusses issues around border security and the movement of passengers and goods into the UK. The forthcoming agenda includes Border Force transformation in Calais & Dover, the new cruise clearance procedures and an insight into cyclamen operations. Although attendees have to be limited due to space, more information including copies of the minutes, actions and outputs can be obtained through [Dan Smith](#).

▶ **Border Force Partner Bulletin Survey – July 2014**

The Border Force partner bulletin was first published in February 2013 and previous feedback has shown that you find this to be a useful channel for receiving update from Border Force. We value your views and would appreciate it if you could let us know what you think by completing this short [online survey](#) which will take you approximately five minutes to fill in.

News Round-up

▶ **Immigration Act now comes into force**

This month has seen the Implementation of the first phase of the Immigration Act 2014. The landmark piece of legislation builds on the government's ongoing reforms to ensure the immigration system works in the national interest.

As a part of the Act there will be wider powers for enforcement officers to search for travel documents and for Border Force officers to search for weapons or objects

likely to cause harm. It also includes a new power to revoke driving licences held by illegal immigrants and an extension of the existing UK-wide duty of registrars to report marriages and civil partnerships they suspect are sham.

Also announced were tougher rules for universities and colleges that sponsor international students. You can read more about it [here](#).

▶ **Modern Slavery Bill set to target traffickers**

The Modern Slavery Bill has had its second reading in Parliament. The Bill will give law enforcement the tools to tackle modern slavery, ensure that perpetrators can receive suitably severe sentences for these appalling crimes, and enhance support and protection for victims. 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.

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. It will also establish safeguarding and trafficking teams at the UK border. You can read more about the Bills progress [here](#).

▶ **Launch of Modern Slavery campaign**

The Home Office has launched a campaign to raise awareness of modern slavery. It aims to educate people about the different types of slavery, how to spot the signs and report. A television advert depicting some types of exploitation will highlight the existence of modern slavery in Britain, and encourage the public to report suspicions to a new helpline 0800 0121 700 and [website](#).

The helpline and website have been set up by the Home Office and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to ensure that suspicions are reported and that victims are referred on and receive the appropriate support. The website provides more information about modern slavery, and an online reporting and referral process. To enable partners and frontline professionals to raise awareness of modern slavery and help victims, there is also a [partner resource pack](#) available on GOV.UK.

▶ **Khat now a controlled class C drug**

The government have taken the decision to make Khat illegal and classified it as a C class drug. The decision was taken after a number of community concerns about the health and social harms of khat use in the UK. There were also concerns about the risk of the UK becoming a single, regional khat smuggling hub for onward trafficking to countries where it is banned, especially since the Dutch ban in January 2013. Use of Khat is mainly associated with Somali and Yemeni communities in the UK, but it is also used by Ethiopian and Kenyan communities. You can find out more about Khat [here](#).

▶ **Online Scottish referendum YouDecide website launches**

On 18 July, exactly two months ahead of the Scottish independence referendum, Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander launched [YouDecide](#), a new online tool designed to make people in Scotland as fully informed as possible ahead of making their decision on 18 September. The tool allows users to select information about their work life, home life and family life in Scotland, to find out how being part of the UK benefits them by breaking down detailed government analysis

and making it relevant to individual circumstances. As well as providing information, YouDecide, also allows people to submit questions regarding Scottish referendum issues.

Detections and seizures – highlights

▶ **Seized Iguanas returned home by Border Force**

Twelve critically endangered iguanas seized from smugglers by Border Force officers at London's Heathrow Airport, have been returned home to their native Bahamas. In an attempt to smuggle them into the country, the iguanas were each wrapped in an individual sock and had been stuffed into suitcases. The iguanas were identified as San Salvador rock iguanas, a species so rare that they are controlled under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Over the past year Border Force officers have made more than 690 seizures under CITES regulations. These included over 326 ivory items and 93 live animals which included king rat snakes, tortoises and white-throated monitor lizards. For the full story click [here](#).

▶ **Cocaine seized at Channel Tunnel**

Border Force officers at the Channel Tunnel entrance in Coquelles, France have seized approximately 31 kilos of cocaine. The drugs, which have an estimated street value of £1.3 million, were found when officers stopped and searched a Slovakian-registered lorry and its load of mixed goods. A Romania man was charged with drug importation and will next appear at Canterbury Crown Court on 4 August. In a further seizure 42 kilos of cocaine were also found on a lorry in Coquelles. Two Romanian men were arrested by Border Force Officers.

▶ **Border Force Cutter cracks cannabis Yacht caper**

The Border Force Cutter HMC Searcher intercepted a yacht off the coast of Newhaven to seize 2,500 kg of cannabis. After searching, Border Force officers found cannabis worth around £7.5 million. Three men from Germany and Austria have now appeared at court charged with drugs offences and are set to be remanded in custody until their next court appearance in August.

▶ **Woman charged after arrests at Portsmouth Port**

A French woman has appeared in court charged with immigration offences after Border Force made two arrests in Portsmouth port. Officers carrying out checks at the port had stopped a French registered car which had travelled by ferry from Cherbourg on 15 July.

There Border Force Officers arrested a French woman, who was charged with facilitating the entry of a non-EU national into the UK and using a counterfeit identity document. She will next appear in Court in August.

▶ **Cocaine seizure at Manchester Airport**

At Manchester Airport a Nigerian man was arrested by Border Force officers on suspicion of smuggling packages containing class A drugs. The man was stopped after he arrived on a flight from Abuja, via Paris. Following searches Border Force

officers recovered around 72 small packages containing cocaine. The estimated weight of the packages was around 700g. The man was questioned by investigators from the National Crime Agency's Border Policing Command and charged with attempting to import a class A drug.

▶ **Passenger at St Pancras arrested for cocaine**

A man was arrested by Border Force officers at St Pancras International rail station on suspicion of smuggling packages containing class A drugs. He was stopped after he arrived on a train from Brussels and following searches Border Force officers recovered around 80 small packages containing cocaine which weighed an estimated one kilo. The man was remanded in custody until his next court appearance.

Published statistics

Statistics on migration and border control can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

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