



Border Force



Partner Bulletin

Essential information for Border Force's partners

May 2014



Message from Sir Charles Montgomery

As Director General of Border Force I would like to welcome you to the May edition of Border Force Partner e-bulletin. I am committed to Border Force becoming the 'best in the world' and having effective partner engagement is very much at the heart of making this happen.

This month Border Force experienced a challenging period in relation to problems at passport control. However this event also demonstrated the positive and essential role Border Force's partners play in helping to secure our borders. Border Force staff and partners dealt with the situation effectively and professionally in a manner that was promoted positively and widely in media. I personally witnessed staff from both Border Force and partners working together and going the extra mile. I would again like to offer my sincere thanks to you and your staff for their support during this period.

This month's e-bulletin contains useful information about new ePassport technology being rolled out and the new security system that is being developed to keep our borders safe. You can also read more about how this month the Immigration Act received royal assent and how the Government launched a new Maritime Security Strategy. You can also find out more about our key partner meetings held this month, including the new Freight Sector Group and issues affecting the industry.

The Partner Bulletin is now available on GOV.UK at Border Force/Publications.

Please continue to give us your feedback by emailing the Border Force Partners inbox.

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Key:  for information;  invitation to action

Index

- ▶ [Operational updates](#)
- ▶ [Border technology and transformation](#)
- ▶ [Detections and seizures – highlights](#)
- ▶ [Partnership working](#)
- ▶ [News round-up](#)

Operational updates

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

Border Force, the Metropolitan Police, and the National Crime Agency carried out an initiative at Heathrow Airport, aimed at preventing and detecting cases of female genital mutilation (FGM). Operation Limelight is a proactive airside operation looking at inbound and outbound flights to 'countries of prevalence' for FGM. Officers kept a look out at airports 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. For the first time the operation has been implemented as a co-ordinated national week of action with six other UK Airports and a number of police forces.

▶ **Her Majesty set to officially open the new Heathrow Terminal 2**

The Queen is set to come and officially open Heathrow Terminal 2 on 23 June 2014 in a special royal ceremony. The new terminal will first open its doors on 4 June 2014, with the first aircraft set to land early that morning. Recently the new terminal unveiled a new sculpture entitled "Slipstream", which is set to become one of Britain's most viewed public sculptures and will be seen by 20 million passengers a year in the new Terminal 2, dubbed "The Queens Terminal". More information is available [here](#).

Detector dogs get new uniforms

This month saw the official rollout of Border Force detector dogs new 'uniforms'. The dogs uniforms are high specification, have high visibility and Julius K9 dog harnesses will for the first time bear official Border Force branding. This enables the detector dogs to be clearly associated with Border Force. The uniforms are based on Metropolitan Police specifications and have been welcomed by both the dogs and their handlers.

[top of page](#)

Border technology and transformation

▶ **New generation of ePassport gates set for UK wide airports**

Border Force is building toward the next generation of ePassport gates which aim to improve the border experience for passengers arriving at UK airports. In the next few months ePassport gates will be rolled out at Heathrow Terminal 2, Manchester Terminal 2, Glasgow, Edinburgh West Terminal and Stansted. The existing ePassport gates are proving hugely successful, with over 50% of eligible passengers using them at many ports. The system now processes more passengers using ePassports and facial recognition than any other country in the world.

▶ **Registered Traveller service expands in May 2014**

This month Border Force expanded the Registered Traveller Service on 6 May to certain types of visa holders. The service is now open to former IRIS passengers aged 18 and over from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan who hold Tier 1 (Investor, Entrepreneur and Exceptional Talent/Promise) or Tier 2 (all categories) who have travelled to the UK four times or more in the last twelve months.

Once fully-enrolled, Registered Travellers can be processed at the EEA controls at Heathrow, or through a dedicated Registered Traveller lane at Gatwick. Full details of the Registered Traveller service and how to apply online using a new and improved application service can be found [here](#).

▶ **Developing the new Border Systems technology programme**

Border Force officers and the digital services at the borders project team, a major project in the Border Systems Programme (BSP), have been visiting a number of selected ports around the country to gain views on the initial prototype for the new security programme. The BSP is a technology programme that enables Border Force to deter and prevent potentially harmful individuals and goods from entering the UK by eventually replacing the current Warnings Index and Semaphore systems. If you would like further details please contact [Paul Moffat](#).

[top of page](#)

Detections and seizures – highlights

▶ **73 year old caged for attempted cocaine smuggling**

A retired Teacher has been jailed for four years and nine months for attempting to smuggle £382,000 of cocaine hidden inside a portrait of Nelson Mandela. He was searched by Border Force Officers when he arrived at Terminal 3 at Manchester Airport from Panama City, via Paris. The search uncovered 1,855 grams of cocaine hidden in the back of the framed photograph and \$3,000 in cash.

▶ **Major cocaine seizure made on ship in North Ayrshire**

Three Dutch men have been arrested after cocaine worth millions of pounds was found hidden beneath a ship that had sailed to Scotland from Colombia. In a joint operation with Border Force Officers, the National Crime Agency and Dutch authorities, a search of the ship discovered 108 kilos of the drug. The men appeared at the Magistrates Court in connection with the offense.

▶ **Man sentenced in Crystal Meth smuggling scam**

A man who was caught by Border Force officers attempting to smuggle almost three kilos of crystal meth into the UK has been jailed for ten years. The man was arrested as he arrived at Heathrow Terminal 4 from West African country Burkina Faso. An x-ray of his suitcase revealed a hidden compartment where the drugs had been concealed, following a trial at Isleworth Crown Court he was found guilty and sent to prison.

▶ **Four year sentence given for attempted cocaine smuggling**

An attempt to smuggle nearly two kilos of cocaine into the UK has led to a 20 year old woman being sentenced to four years in jail. She attempted to smuggle £319,000 worth of cocaine in her hand luggage on a flight that originated in San Paulo, Brazil. Border Force officers stopped her at London City Airport and discovered a number of packages concealed within the dividers of the bag. She was later sentenced by a judge at Croydon Crown Court.

[top of page](#)

Partnership Working

▶ **Freight Sector Group**

The Border Force South East & Europe Freight Sector Group took place on 8 May 2014. There were positive discussions with the Freight Transport association (FTA), Road Haulage Association (RHA) and United Kingdom Warehousing Association (UKWA) regarding Border Force Freight Operations. The forum aimed to identify opportunities for increased co-operation to enhance legitimate freight trade. More information can be obtained through Mike.Mullins@Homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

▶ **Air Carrier Group**

The sixth meeting of the Air Carrier Group (ACG) is due to take place on 5 June 2014. For more information you can contact the Home Office ACG secretariat [Daniel Smith](#).

News Round-up

▶ **Immigration Act receives royal assent.**

After completing its seven-month successful passage through both Houses of Parliament, the Immigration Bill received royal assent on 14 May 2014 and now becomes the Immigration Act 2014. The Immigration Act 2014 contains 77 clauses and makes fundamental changes to how our immigration system functions.

It will limit the factors which draw illegal migrants to the UK, make it easier to remove those with no right to be here and ensure the Courts have regard to Parliament's view of what the public interest requires when considering Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights in immigration cases. For more details please [click here](#).

▶ **The United Kingdom's national strategy for maritime security**

This month the Minister for Shipping, Stephen Hammond launched the UK national strategy for maritime security which outlines, for the first time, the UK's approach to delivering maritime security at home and internationally. It outlines the work of Border Force and others in helping to combat illegal activity in UK waters. The strategy sets out how there will be more effective collaboration across government with key stakeholders and our international partners. Some of the key priorities include protecting the security of ports, passenger and cargo vessels. The strategy will also cover the security of vital maritime trade. If you would like to read more please click [here](#).

Published statistics

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

[top of page](#)

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