



**SECURING
OUR BORDER
CONTROLLING
MIGRATION**

TACKLING IMMIGRATION CRIME

A GUIDE FOR POLICE





WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

If you are a police officer, a community support officer or working in criminal detection, you may already be working with the UK Border Agency in helping reduce the harm caused to our communities by organised immigration crime or smuggling.

Increased capability around tackling serious and organised crime is a government priority. This will only be fully-achieved if law-enforcement partners work closely together.

This guide will help you understand how, by working in partnership with the UK Border Agency, we can make our local communities even safer.

For example, did you know that the UK Border Agency has a presence in 135 countries overseas and immigration powers to prevent the entry of foreign criminals or effect their removal from the UK? Our teams stop drugs and weapons from entering the UK, we prevent organised criminals financing their activities through smuggling and we make checks overseas, including fingerprinting of visa applicants.

Grahame Maxwell, the Association of Chief Police Officers' lead on immigration, stressed that closer working between our staff and the police was vital to "create a hostile environment" for those involved in organised immigration crime.

On pages 16 and 17 you will find a directory of contacts and numbers within the Agency which we hope you will find useful. Please feel free to publicise the information in this pack across your organisations.

Did you know?

In 2008/09 we seized nearly 4,900 dangerous weapons, including firearms, stun guns and hundreds of knives, off the streets.

PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

LOCAL IMMIGRATION TEAMS

When people come to live in the UK they enter into a deal: by working hard and playing by the rules they earn their right to stay. We are taking action against those who break the rules.

Local Immigration Teams are being rolled out to tackle local immigration crime, targeting the most harmful people first. More UK Border Agency officers and staff than ever before will be deployed to local teams. Each team will work with law enforcement and regulatory bodies to target specific problems. There is a UK Border Agency resource local to you, sometimes even in the local police station. Increasingly, there will be a Local Immigration Team lead for you to call directly to discuss immigration crime, enforcement or intelligence issues.

Many of our operations are already conducted jointly with the police or other local regulatory agencies such as trading standards. The UK Border Agency can help you by:

- deporting serious offenders;
- removing harmful foreign nationals, in some cases even if they have not been convicted;
- penalising or prosecuting organisations and employers who break the law by employing illegal workers.

“Our working knowledge of immigration issues was at best vague, so working with the UK Border Agency helped us manage challenging cases in different ways. The professional tenacity of police and UK Border Agency officers working together resulted in the arrest of 2 Taiwanese women and a property owner foreclosing on a brothel tenancy. This helped to restore community trust in local agencies in what had been a long standing concern.”

Steve Hutchings, Southsea Police

UK Border Agency officers working with police during a joint operation



PROTECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

IMMIGRATION CRIME TEAMS

Around three-quarters of illegal migration to the UK is associated with organised crime. The UK Border Agency has developed new criminal investigation capability in the form of immigration crime teams, comprising immigration staff and police officers working together in joint teams and as equal partners; to bring different skills, knowledge and powers to tackle organised criminal networks.

Immigration crime teams focus on catching and prosecuting, or where appropriate removing or disrupting, those who commit organised, immigration related crime and those committing serious crime whilst in the UK illegally. Human trafficking, people smuggling and facilitating illegal entry are all targeted by the teams. Other forms of immigration crime can involve the production and supply of counterfeit documents, setting up of bogus colleges and the access to benefits under false pretences.

“Specialist teams are allowing immigration staff and police officers to utilise investigative skills and immigration powers in order to remove foreign nationals who are causing harm to local communities. This can be harm to an individual, harm to society, or harm to the economic well being of the country.”

Chief Superintendent Andy Tatam, UK Border Agency

Did you know?

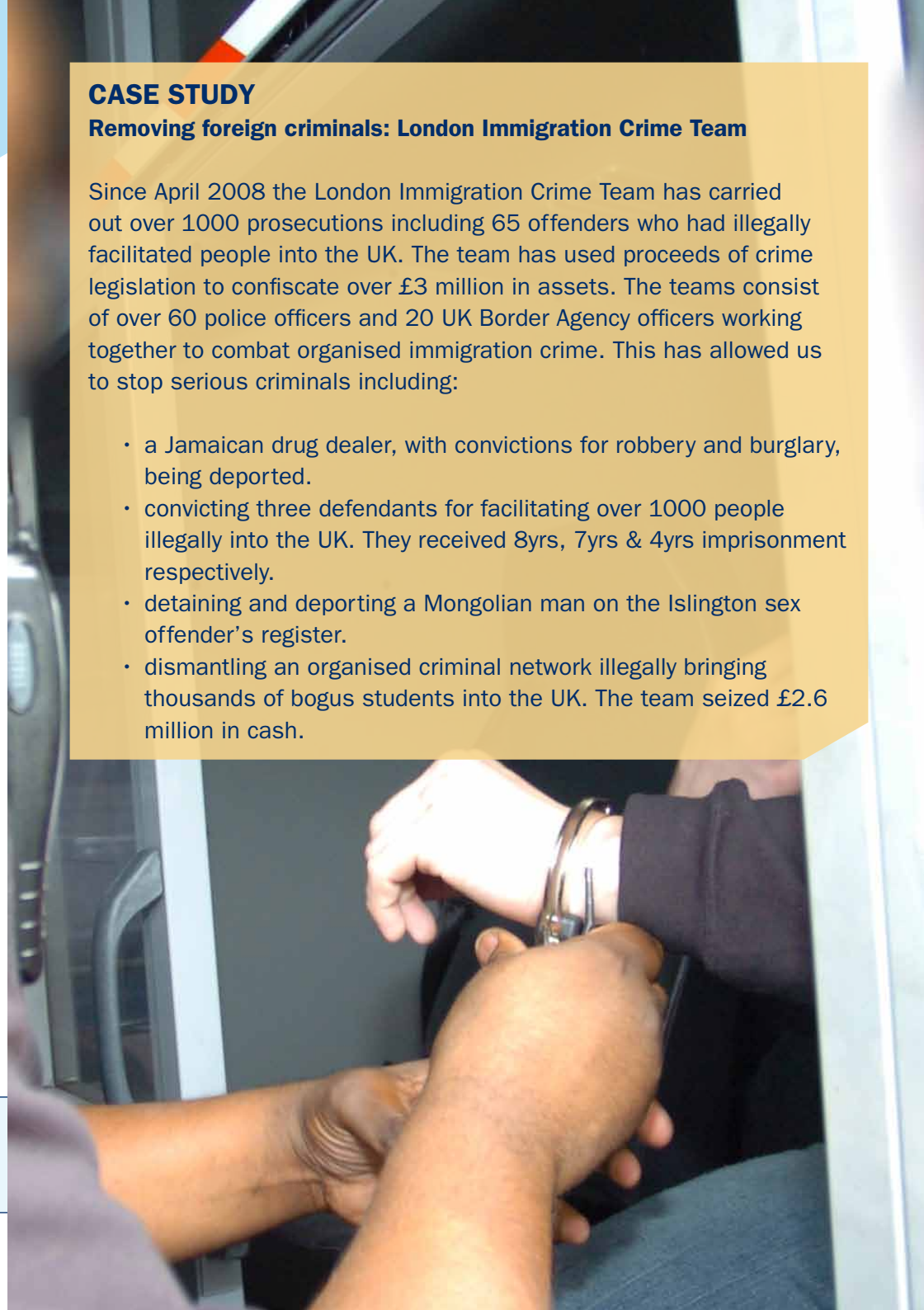
In 2008/9 Immigration Crime Teams instigated in excess of 2,300 prosecutions aimed at dismantling organised crime networks and tackling organised immigration related criminality.

CASE STUDY

Removing foreign criminals: London Immigration Crime Team

Since April 2008 the London Immigration Crime Team has carried out over 1000 prosecutions including 65 offenders who had illegally facilitated people into the UK. The team has used proceeds of crime legislation to confiscate over £3 million in assets. The teams consist of over 60 police officers and 20 UK Border Agency officers working together to combat organised immigration crime. This has allowed us to stop serious criminals including:

- a Jamaican drug dealer, with convictions for robbery and burglary, being deported.
- convicting three defendants for facilitating over 1000 people illegally into the UK. They received 8yrs, 7yrs & 4yrs imprisonment respectively.
- detaining and deporting a Mongolian man on the Islington sex offender's register.
- dismantling an organised criminal network illegally bringing thousands of bogus students into the UK. The team seized £2.6 million in cash.



PROTECTING OUR BORDER

THE ROLE OF BORDER FORCE

Our staff work closely with the police and others to secure our border for the benefit of the country. Our Border Force provides a single uniformed presence in ports and airports around the UK. It brings together customs detection and immigration control powers to combat smuggling, fraud and immigration crime and to track down criminals who bring in illegal immigrants.

Bringing together the work of immigration, customs detection work at the border and visas has meant that the UK Border Agency is better able to deploy resources, including a wide range of technology, to target those people who attempt to bring people and goods illegally into the UK. Technology such as x-ray scanners, carbon dioxide, drug and radiation detection machines and cameras are used together with the intelligence and skill of our officers on the frontline to protect our border.

Border Force operates Juxtaposed Controls in France and Belgium which have been highly successful in reducing asylum intake and preventing clandestine entry. As well as visually checking vehicles for signs they have been tampered with, we also use body detecting dogs and technology that search for signs of human breath and heartbeats.

In 2008 we stopped over **28,000** attempts to cross the channel illegally and searched over **1 million** freight vehicles. Since the UK Border Agency was formed in April 2008 we have seized **1.4 billion cigarettes** – representing a potential tax loss of nearly **£194 million** in tax revenue - and **£370 million worth of illegal drugs** at the border.



MARITIME AND AVIATION OPERATIONS

The UK Border Agency operates a fleet of modern patrol ships - known as cutters - to provide a national all year, all weather surveillance, enforcement and interdiction capability to act against maritime criminality at the border.

Cutters operate mainly in UK waters responding to intelligence or patrolling high-risk areas but regularly work in international waters too. They are frequently deployed to support police colleagues where the specialist skills, knowledge and experience of the cutter crew can add considerable value and capability. We work closely with police, SOCA and military colleagues to provide a maritime security capability and regularly support initiatives such as Operation Kraken, the national maritime counter-terrorism strategy for the Solent.



HMC Valiant, June 2009

EXPORTING OUR BORDER

HOW WE STOP CRIMINALS AND DRUGS COMING TO THE UK

Our staff in 135 countries are the frontline against illegal immigration and foreign criminals coming to the UK. They use fingerprinting to confirm the identity of visa applicants and check them against databases of criminals before they can travel.

We also have the Risk and Liaison Overseas Network (RALON) operating in 49 countries. RALON are responsible for;

- enhancing visa decision making through the provision of intelligence;
- tackling inadequately documented passengers from travelling to the UK; and
- cooperating with foreign law enforcement to disrupt criminal enterprises seeking to circumvent UK border controls.

The network gives us a critical overseas intelligence capability. Working closely with key stakeholders like SOCA and the Police, we are better able to deploy our intelligence to tackle threats that may occur at any stage of the migrant journey.

Information can be shared with RALON through the RALON Operations Centre (ALOnetwork.Dutyofficer@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Did you know?

In 2008 the network – working closely with carriers - prevented 66,000 passengers from boarding planes to the UK.

CASE STUDY

Operation Airbridge

Customs detection staff overseas visit Jamaica from time-to-time to give training and support to the local enforcement officers on targeting serious threats such as drug smuggling. Operation Airbridge targets cocaine smugglers using the “swallowers” method of concealment on flights from Jamaica. The initiative has led to a rapid decline in smuggling via UK airports. As a result of the success of this operation, drugs seizures have reduced from 822 in the first year of operation to just five in the last year, with a similar decline in Jamaica. Operation Westbridge in Accra, Ghana, undertakes similar work but against general drugs smuggling.

Since November 2006 when the partnership operation began we have seized over 7 tonnes of drugs with a street level value of about £100 million.



SHARING INTELLIGENCE

With a 25,000-strong global workforce, the Agency depends on gathering and disseminating information to tackle criminal activities including organised crime, illegal working, illegal imports and terrorism. One of the Agency's key strategic partners is the police, with whom intelligence is shared on a routine, day to day basis using both statutory legal gateways and common law (Ram) powers.

Sharing intelligence delivers results

A corrupt immigration solicitor submitted a fake Nigerian passport in support of a right of abode application. Intelligence was shared with the London Immigration Crime Team (Operation Swale) and close collaborative working uncovered a sophisticated and widespread fraud involving work permit and student visa abuse. He was prosecuted and recently jailed for six years.

The Agency is committed to “share and increase the lawful and secure flow of information locally, nationally and internationally”. This is one of the nine key Principles of Intelligence adopted by the Agency.

CASE STUDY

Operation Chorus

This was a successful joint operation involving the UK Border Agency and police from Kent and Hampshire. The Agency was alerted to the presence of a suspicious vessel in the Channel. The boat was intercepted and, although no prohibited or restricted goods were initially seized, the crew's details were recorded and analysed against UK Border Agency and police intelligence databases. Intelligence suggested that the crew were members of an organised crime group involved in drug smuggling. A joint operation was mounted, which led to their subsequent arrest and the seizure of 14kgs of cocaine.

CASE STUDY

e-borders

e-Borders is being developed by the UK Border Agency in partnership with ACPO. Once fully deployed in 2014, e-Borders will capture information on every traveller entering, leaving or transiting the UK, match their details against a number of watch lists to identify those of interest to UK authorities and disseminate alerts to officers at ports for immediate intervention, or elsewhere for intelligence purposes.

The pilot for e-Borders, Project Semaphore, delivered significant operational benefits across counter terrorist and wider policing functions. By the end of the 2008/09 financial year the system had screened 84 million travellers and supported 2,955 police arrests including murder, rape and assault. In addition numerous requests for information and identification of subjects of intelligence interest have been generated.

Police use of e-Borders data will be restricted to serious crime, the protection of vulnerable people and execution of judicial orders including warrants. Alerts generated from the watch listing process will continue to rise as the volume of travellers screened increases. Access to the data will be provided via CJX directly to forces.

CRIMINALITY AND DETENTION

The UK Border Agency is responsible for detaining and removing those who should not be in the country, whether that is through breaking immigration laws, domestic laws, or because they are failed asylum seekers, being detained pending removal.

Our detention estate currently comprises 11 Immigration Removal Centres and four Short Term Holding Facilities, providing a total of 3,112 beds across the UK. Our removal centres are mainly concentrated in the south east of England, with one in the north and one in Scotland.

We are determined to make our local communities safer by detaining and removing those who cause the most harm, with a focus on foreign national prisoners who face deportation. In line with case law and UK Border Agency policy, consideration for deportation will commence 12 months prior to an individual's earliest date of release, where sentence length permits.

What's the process?

- Prisons notify the Criminality and Detention team with details of foreign national prisoners.
- We assess each case individually taking all factors into consideration, including the crime and length of sentence.
- A dedicated case owner processes the case through to removal/deportation.
- Ensuring we address representations from the person concerned, we consider asylum applications and obtain travel documents.

Did you know?

Last year we deported almost 5,400 foreign prisoners including 50 people found guilty of murder, attempted murder or causing death, around 260 sex offenders and over 1,600 drug offenders.

Of the drug offenders removed more than 550 were convicted of the production or supply of drugs and over 600 were convicted of the importation of drugs.

DIRECTORY NATIONAL CONTACTS

We want to work closely with police officers and other law enforcement agencies. Please contact us if you need our help, or have information you think would be of use to us in tackling border or immigration crime.

Customs Helpline: 0800 595000

To report all types of smuggling in respect of drugs, illegal alcohol, tobacco sales or tax fraud.

UK Border Agency Command and Control Unit: 0161 261 1640

The Command and Control Unit is manned 24 hours, 7 days a week. It is central point of contact for all police forces nationwide, conducting status checks on foreign nationals both in custody and those encountered in the field. The unit can offer advice from records about who is involved in serious criminal activity and can be considered for deportation. The team can also assist police officers in making decisions about immigration offenders with access to real knowledge of these offences whilst considering both the UK Border Agency and police business interests.

Communications Directorate

To discuss joint publicity opportunities or deterrent campaigns in your area, contact the UK Border Agency Communications Team.
Email: UKBACampaignsTeam@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

To find out more about the UK Border Agency, please go to:
www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

DIRECTORY

REGIONAL CONTACTS

Regional Liaison Officers

Our regional crime teams deal with organised immigration crime and the use of immigration powers against immigration offenders within the UK.

London

Acting Detective Chief Inspector Doug Rushworth

Email: Doug.Rushworth4@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 07917 615895

South East

Detective Inspector Andy Cummins

Email: Andrew.Cummins@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Phone: 07770 828453

Wales and South West

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Offside

Email: David.Offside@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 07825 934027

Midlands and East of England

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Brown

Email: Chris.Brown@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Phone: 07970 381969

North East, Yorkshire and the Humber

Detective Chief Inspector David Powell

Email: Dave.Powell@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

Phone: 07786 193605

North West

HMI Dave Magrath

Email: David.Magrath@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 07810 153467

Scotland & Northern Ireland

SEO Carolyne Wallace

Email: Carolyne.Lindsay8@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Phone: 07768 237159



What is the UK Border Agency?

The UK Border Agency was established in April 2008 to create a strong new force at the border by bringing together immigration, customs and visa checks to improve border controls and security. We want the UK to stay open and attractive for both business and visitors.

Our purpose is to secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country. As an agency we are:

- a single border force removing barriers to working collaboratively sharing intelligence, skills and powers.
- working in partnership with the police and other law enforcement agencies
- putting public protection at the heart of what we do.

The new agency is equipped to protect our border in the 21st Century. We have a budget of more than £2bn and 25,000 staff, including more than 9,000 customs and immigration officers. They work in local communities, at the border and in 135 countries around the world.