

# **General Security Awareness Training Briefing Note**

## **Border Force – Securing the Border**

This briefing note is for all aviation security instructors delivering General Security Awareness Training (GSAT) in the UK. It is offered to support module 2 (and specifically parts 1 and 3) and the key message that security is everyone's responsibility.

This note has been drafted to compliment the GSAT syllabus but instructors are free to choose how best to use the information provided when training. For further detail, or to seek the support of the Border Force in this area, please contact your local (port or terminal) Training Liaison Officer directly.

### AIM

*To outline Border Force requirements to maintain border security, and how those requirements support and complement commercial aviation security.*

### OBJECTIVE 1

- *For the trainee to understand the role of Border Force and their role in ensuring that relevant passengers are subject to immigration and customs controls.*

#### Teaching points:

- *Robust aviation security supports a secure border*
- *Border Force is a law enforcement command in the HO. Current priorities:*
  - *Secure the border by undertaking immigration and customs controls for people and goods entering the UK;*
  - *Promote national prosperity by facilitating the legitimate movement of people and goods.*
- *Legal duty on airlines (and agents) to present passengers to an Immigration Officer and comply with all other agreed processes for handling passengers.*  
*Legislation/satutory instruments:*
  - *Immigration Act (1971), schedule 2, paragraphs 26 & 27;*
  - *CEMA (1979), sections 21 & 22.*
- *Types of passenger – which are/are not subject to mandatory Border Force control:*
  - *International arrivals (EEA and non EEA);*
  - *Domestic arrivals (within UK);*
  - *CTA (Common Travel Area) arrivals include the Republic of Ireland, Isle of Man and Channel Islands of Jersey and Gurnsey;;*
  - *Others (medical and decontrolled passengers);*
  - *All controllable passengers must be cleared by Border Force*
  - *If in doubt – check!*

### OBJECTIVE 2

- *For the trainee to understand what is meant by a border security breach, and recognise their role and responsibilities in securing the border and reporting breaches.*

#### Teaching points:

- *Control breach definition – when third party actions allow controllable passengers to avoid BF controls - 3 broad categories:*
  - *Those passengers who deliberately circumvent Border Force controls;*

- *Those passengers who are mistakenly directed by a member of the airport community and consequently avoid Border Force controls;*
- *Those passengers who are deliberately escorted to avoid Border Force controls (and where Border Force have not provided prior authority) e.g. medical emergencies and passengers arrested upon arrival.*
- **Examples**
  - *80 international passengers were wrongly coached to the domestic arrivals channel. 77 passengers were recovered and returned, and subject to full checks. 3 passengers had already left the airport and entered the UK without being subject to mandatory checks;*
  - *3 international passengers were granted access by use of a crew pass to domestic arrivals channel. 3 passengers were recovered and returned and subjected to full checks.*
  - *3 international passengers became detached from the main body of those moving towards the primary check point and were allowed by a cleaner through a security door to international departures. The 3 passengers were identified, recovered and returned and subjected to full checks*
  - *136 international passengers alighted at a remote stand and were coached to the terminal in 2 buses. However, one bus incorrectly routed the passengers through a domestic channel. Border Force were not able to fully recover the passengers and 59 entered the UK without being subject to mandatory checks.*
  - *5 international passengers passed through a CTA arrivals door which had been mistakenly left open. 4 passengers were recovered and returned, and subject to full checks. 1 passenger had already left the airport and had entered the UK without being subject to mandatory checks;*
  - *2 international passengers were escorted through the staff channel exit by a ground handling agent, rather than being directed to Border Force. The passengers, unaccompanied minors, were intercepted by a Border Force officer. They were recovered and returned, and subject to full checks.*
- **Consequences**
  - *All those passengers that were not subject mandatory checks represented a potential serious security threat;*
  - *Reputational damage to Border Force, airport operator, airline, handling agent;*
  - *Individual sanction – suspension/loss of airport pass, discipline/dismissal;*
  - *Ministerial oversight of control breaches.*
- **Required actions following any border security breach:**
  - *Contain (and recover) the breach;*
  - *Immediate notification to all relevant parties (security, TDM, Border Force);*
  - *Report full details at earliest opportunity (always before end of shift).*
- **Lessons learnt:**
  - *Customer service should never adversely impact security considerations;*
  - *Do not allow other people to ‘tailgate’ you;*
  - *Do not prop doors open or allow arriving passengers through security doors;*
  - *Ensure opened doors are closed and secured before walking away;*
  - *Do not escort arriving passengers through staff channels;*
  - *Notify BF of any emergency situations involving arriving passengers*
  - *Be clear – arriving international passengers, or domestic/CTA arrivals;*
  - *Border security complements aviation security.*