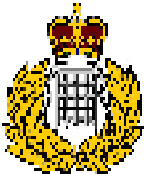
	<p>HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR HM CUSTOMS</p> <p>Custom House Waterport</p>	
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PRESS RELEASE

No: 317/2012

Date: 23rd May 2012

HM Customs cigarette seizures – 6 arrests

Six men have been arrested by HM Customs for offences under the Tobacco Act. Two vehicles and 68,680 cigarettes have been seized in four separate incidents.

Two local men (aged 40 and 23) were arrested by HM Customs consequent to the execution of a search warrant on premises in the Rosia Parade area. A locally registered vehicle, mechanical equipment and 38,080 cigarettes (190 cartons) were seized during the operation. The investigation into this incident is ongoing. The two men have been bailed to surrender on June 21st.

A 36 year old Spanish national was arrested by officers at Eastern Beach after a search of his vehicle resulted in the seizure of 7,200 cigarettes (36 cartons). The Spanish registered car and cigarettes were seized by HM Customs. The man, resident in La Linea, was released on bail.

Two Spanish nationals were arrested at Eastern beach when Officers on a routine patrol intercepted three men running towards the frontier fence carrying bags of cigarettes. One man dropped his bags and made good his escape to Spain. The two others, both La Linea residents aged 26 & 27, were arrested and detained by officers of HM Customs. They have been bailed to surrender on May 31st. 18,000 cigarettes (90 cartons) were seized in this incident.

In a fourth incident, an 18 year old Spanish national was arrested by Customs after he was seen acting suspiciously at Eastern Beach. The La Linea resident attempted to flee the scene, was chased on foot and apprehended. He was arrested for Tobacco Act offences and subsequently bailed to surrender on May 30th. 5,400 cigarettes (27 cartons) were seized by HM Customs.