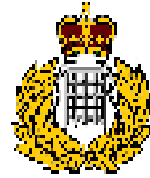




**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
HM CUSTOMS**

**Custom House
Waterport**



PRESS RELEASE

No: 325/2012

Date: 24th May 2012

HM Customs cigarette seizures – 4 arrests

Four men have been arrested by HM Customs for offences under the Tobacco Act. Two vehicles, a canoe and 62,600 cigarettes have been seized in four separate incidents.

A 21 year old local man was arrested yesterday afternoon in the Waterport basin area after a search of a canoe resulted in the detection of 33,600 cigarettes (168 cartons). The vessel and the cigarettes have been seized by HM Customs. The man has been bailed to surrender on June 21st.

In a separate matter, officers of HM Customs responded to an incident at Eastern Beach and gave chase to two men who had been seen acting suspiciously in the area. The two men, later identified as Spanish nationals, fled to Spain and were seen to be apprehended by officers of the Spanish Civil Guard. A search of the beach area close to the frontier fence resulted in the detection of a number of bags containing 12,000 cigarettes (60 cartons).

Two Spanish nationals (aged 45 & 46) were arrested in Fish Market Road after their Spanish registered vehicle was searched by Customs. Both men, resident in La Linea, have been bailed to surrender on June 14th. 10,000 cigarettes (50 cartons) were found in the car. The cigarettes and the vehicle have been seized by HM Customs.

7,000 cigarettes (35 cartons) and a Spanish registered vehicle were seized yesterday evening in the Green Lane area of Europa Road. A 33 year old Spanish national, resident in Puente Mayorga, was arrested after the commercial quantity of cigarettes was detected in his vehicle during a search by officers of HM Customs.