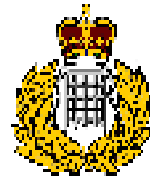




**HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
HM CUSTOMS**

**Custom House
Waterport**



PRESS RELEASE

No: 340/2012

Date: 29th May 2012

Cigarette seizures by HM Customs – 3 arrested

Two Spanish nationals and a local man have been arrested by HM Customs in two separate incidents yesterday. 12,200 cigarettes and a locally registered motorcycle have been seized.

At Eastern Beach, a 15 year old Spanish youth and a 17 year old local man were arrested after being seen running towards the frontier fence carrying bags. Both men were chased on foot and attempted to evade capture by entering the sea and swimming to Spain. Two Customs Officers entered the sea in pursuit and apprehended both suspects. 7,200 cigarettes (36 cartons) were seized in the incident. The men have been bailed to surrender on June 21st. Enquiries are ongoing.

In a second incident, a locally registered motorcycle and 5,000 cigarettes were seized by Customs at British Lines Road. Vanesa ARROYAL Garcia, a 26 year old Spanish national, was seen on a motorcycle as she entered the customs-controlled area and was challenged by officers of HM Customs as she approached the frontier fence. The Los Barrios resident was arrested after her rucksack was searched and found to contain 5,000 cigarettes (25 cartons). She was charged with possession of a commercial quantity of cigarettes and bailed to appear in the Magistrate's Court today; she failed to surrender and a warrant has been obtained for her arrest.