



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

HM CUSTOMS
Custom House
Waterport



PRESS RELEASE

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Drug and cigarette seizures – 5 arrests

A 54 year old German national appeared in the Magistrates' court charged with the importation and possession of 27g of Herbal Cannabis, a controlled Class B Drug. Following a guilty plea, he was sentenced to a £200 fine. Hans Dieter SCHOENDELEN was arrested by HM Customs at the Land Frontier on Sunday after a search of the vehicle he was driving resulted in the detection of the drug.

In a separate incident, two Spanish nationals were arrested at Eastern Beach after they were challenged and found to be in possession of a commercial quantity of cigarettes. The La Linea residents were transporting a canoe towards the shoreline when Customs officers approached them. The men dropped the canoe and attempted to evade arrest by swimming to Spain. They were apprehended and the canoe was found to contain 20,000 cigarettes (100 cartons). Both men have been bailed to surrender on October 3rd. A Spanish registered vehicle, the canoe and cigarettes were seized by HM Customs in this incident.

In a further matter, officers of HM Customs arrested a 22 year old Spanish national and a 24 year old local man after searching a lock-up garage in the Devil's Tower Road area. On entering the garage, Customs found a locally registered vehicle with cigarettes concealed within compartments in the vehicle. There were further quantities of cigarettes also found in the garage. The vehicle and 64,300 cigarettes (321 cartons) have been seized by HM Customs. Both men have been bailed to surrender on Oct 3rd.

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