



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

HM CUSTOMS
Custom House
Waterport



PRESS RELEASE

No: 741/2013

Date: 18th October 2013

Cigarette seizures

HM Customs have seized 48,800 cigarettes in a number of recent incidents.

In one case, officers responding to suspect activity at Western Beach conducted a search and detected 10,000 cigarettes (50 cartons) concealed in the area.

In a separate incident, officers on a routine patrol spotted three men near the frontier fence at the northern end of Eastern Beach. When challenged, the men ran towards the fence, entered the water and swam to Spain where they were intercepted by the Spanish Law Enforcement authorities. An area search was conducted which resulted in the detection of a number of bags containing 23,800 cigarettes (119 cartons) buried in the sand some metres south of the fence.

In a third incident, officers of HM Customs witnessed two men at British Lines Road attempting to throw large bags over the frontier fence. As they approached, the men dropped the bags and made good their escape over the fence to Spain. A Spanish registered car was searched and 15,000 cigarettes (75 cartons) were detected.

HM Customs have seized the vehicle and all cigarettes found during these incidents. Several lines of enquiry are being pursued.

T: +350 200 78879 (c3741); F: +350 200 46706 (c3706); e: hmcustoms@gibraltar.gov.gi