Thank You
For the invitation to speak
On the use and deployment of canine
resource at London Heathrow.

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Border Force Heathrow.
Total number of Detection Dogs deployed at Heathrow: 18

- Drugs only: 6
- Firearms / Drugs: 2
- Tobacco / PoAO: 1
- Tobacco / PoAO / Drugs: 1
- Tobacco / Drugs: 2
- Cash / Drugs: 3
- Cash / Drugs / Tobacco: 1
- Currently in training: 2
National resources

• Across the UK we have approx 70 dogs working for Border Force.
• National strategy is to increase dog capability to between 100 and 120 dogs
• This may include a mobile strike force to enable "surge " capability into areas of increased risk both in the UK and in near Europe in juxterposed controls.
Heathrow the busiest International Airport in Europe.

Varied work environment

- Freight / Courier Mail / Fast parcel
- Aircraft – cabin and holds
- Passengers
- Baggage – hand carried and checked-in
- Airport workers
- Premises search
- Vehicles
Dogs are able to screen huge quantities of checked-in baggage, freight, courier mail, passengers or vehicles, to aid detection staff narrow their search down.
Handler Training

- Handlers are recruited from within Border Force.
- They are fully trained BF officers who deploy with a dog.
- The Basic national Dog Handler Training Package was developed at Heathrow.
- All training is done in-house by Dog Unit Team Leaders.

Basic Handler Training:
1. 2 weeks care, feed and exercise training package
2. 8 week Basic Dog Handler Training Package
3. 4 week mentoring by an experienced handler
Target Scents

• Drugs – cocaine and heroin

• Tobacco and Cigarettes

• Cash – unique paper and ink combinations

• Firearms (2016) – gun powder residue and hardened steel

• PoAO – meat and dairy, plus live animals and a number of CITES controlled items such as Elephant Ivory and Rhino Horn
Training a Detection Dog

All dogs are trained in-house by the DUTL. The trained dog is then re-teamed with an existing handler.

- Stage 1 – 8 weeks
- Stage 2 – 4-5 weeks
- Re-team – 3 weeks
- Continuation training is provided on a regular basis by the DUTL and handler to both develop performance and maintain a high standard of operation.
- All training is carried out within the operational environment in which the dog will be expected to work.
Annual Licensing

• Each dog team undergoes an annual licensing process. The license is pass or fail.

• The process is carried out in the operational environment, observing the teams performance over two days.
Results across commodities

2015-2016 (12 months)

Cigarettes
1,026,064 sticks

Tobacco
• 7,560 kilo

Cash
• £ sterling - 8,422,440

Drugs
• Cocaine 30 kilos
• Heroin 22 kilos

PoAO
• 13,935.24 kilos
The end

• Thank you
• Any questions.