

Press release: Spot check crackdown on waste carriers around London City Airport

Environment Agency officers are once again out in force to crack down on illegal waste crime around London City Airport.

Recently the Environment Agency supported a multi-agency day with partners including the Met police and DVSA – in a bid to reduce and disrupt waste crimes, metal/cable theft, tax evasion and prevent dangerous vehicles from being on the road.

During the day of action, vehicles were stopped by officers from the partner agencies to identify offences and non-compliance.

On one occasion, a vehicle carrying a suspected stolen cable was stopped. The driver was interviewed under caution by the Police with an Environment Officer on hand to question him about duty of care offences and non-compliance.

Environment officers also checked whether waste carriers were providing waste transfer notes to the sites where they collected waste from.

Senior Environmental Crime Officer Julia Leigh said:

We want to make it very clear to people that everyone has a duty of care to ensure their waste is managed and disposed of correctly by the people they give it to. If you use illegal waste carriers to take your rubbish you risk being fined up to £5000. When someone offers to take your waste, you need to check that they are a registered waste carrier with us and they must provide you with a waste transfer note that tells you where they are taking the waste to.

Police and DVSA used their powers to prohibit a number of vehicles from being used on the road due to the dangerous defects they identified.

DVSA vehicle examiner Keith Barker, whose team took three vans off the road during the operation, said:

DVSA is committed to protecting you from unsafe drivers and vehicles. There's no excuse for driving with mechanical defects or with an overweight or unstable load. Those on London's roads who break the rules are putting themselves and others at risk. Working

alongside our colleagues in the Environment Agency we'll crack down on rogue drivers and operators, making London's roads safer for all.

Waste being transported with no authorisations is likely to end-up at unregulated sites. Such sites store waste in vast quantities and for long periods of time posing significant risks to health and the environment. Risks can include fire which has the potential to contaminate water and land as well as air pollution from smoke. Illegal waste sites are often the cause of odour complaints too.

Julia Leigh added:

People who manage waste illegally cost the taxpayer millions every year in clean-up costs and make considerable sums of undeclared income. They also undercut legitimate business, and pose a direct threat to sustainable growth in the waste management sector. Our enforcement days make sure that the Right Waste goes to the right place – to stop unpermitted businesses undermining legitimate businesses and help create a level playing field.

Media enquiries: 0800 141 2743.

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[News story: Windrush lessons learned review](#)

The announcement comes the day before the 70th anniversary of the arrival of Empire Windrush to the UK. Across the country events are being held to celebrate the enormous contribution members of the Windrush generation have made to this country.

The Home Secretary has been clear; his top priority is to right the wrongs suffered by Commonwealth citizens as a result of measures put in place to tackle illegal immigration.

The lessons learned review will look at what happened and what action is needed to prevent anything like this from happening again.

The Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

The contribution that the Windrush generation have made to this country is invaluable and I am committed to putting things right.

I am delighted that Wendy will be overseeing the lessons learned review, which is vital to ensuring this never happens again to any group of people. She has a wealth of experience and I am confident that she will bring integrity to the review and give it the external scrutiny it requires.

The commitment to carry out a lessons learned review is just one of the actions that the Home Office has carried out in recent months. A dedicated Windrush taskforce which was established in April has provided documentation to over 2,000 people to demonstrate their right to live in the UK.

The Home Office has also launched a new Windrush Scheme, bringing into force the offer of free citizenship for Commonwealth citizens who arrived before 1973 and children who joined their parents before they turned 18.

Applications are already being processed and so far 285 people have been granted citizenship.

In addition, the Home Secretary has committed to put in place a compensation scheme to make sure those who have been impacted are compensated. More than 500 people and organisations came forward as part of the call for evidence. This will help ensure the scheme effectively addresses the issues people of the Windrush generation have faced.

The terms of reference and methodology for the lessons learned review will be laid in the House before summer recess.