



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR

HM CUSTOMS
Custom House
Waterport



PRESS RELEASE

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HM Customs officers sustain minor injuries in high speed chase at sea

HM Customs officers were carrying out a routine patrol of BGTW on board HMC Searcher on Friday night when a suspicious vessel was spotted heading towards the eastern coastline; the officers proceeded to challenge the vessel which failed to stop and its crew began jettisoning cargo overboard. The suspect vessel's engine then stalled and HMC Searcher crossed its bow to block its path. The suspect vessel however regained power and proceeded to ram HMC Searcher causing damage to the vessel and injuring two officers; at this point the Royal Gibraltar Police joined the chase.

The suspect vessel continued conducting dangerous manoeuvres in its attempt to escape, causing another collision with the HMC Searcher. The vessel was eventually intercepted and Police and Customs Officers jumped on board. The vessel was searched but nothing was found. The three occupants were arrested and conveyed to New Mole House Police station where they have been remanded in custody. The vessel was detained by HM Customs and is currently in their custody.

Two Customs Officers were subsequently treated for minor injuries at St Bernard's Hospital and later discharged. Investigations into the incident continue.

The Collector of Customs has emphasised how this incident highlights the ongoing co-operation between local law enforcement in the fight against crime.