

House of Commons: Written Statement (HCWS290)

Home Office

Written Statement made by: **The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Shabana Mahmood)** on 16 Jul 2026.

Publication of the Border Security Commander's Annual Report 2025-26

Today I can announce that the first Border Security Commander's Annual Report, for the period 2025 to 2026, is being laid before Parliament.

In our manifesto, this Government promised to create a new Border Security Command to tackle the organised criminal gangs behind illegal channel crossings, with the ability to deliver a response befitting the scale and urgency of this challenge. As this report shows, it has had a significant impact since becoming operational in July 2024. In 2025 alone, we have invested an additional £100 million into the system through the BSC, with a commitment to invest an additional £280m per year by 2028.

Over the past year, investments across the system have enabled a substantial uplift for National Crime Agency officers tackling OIC, as well as building and enhancing operational capabilities. The NCA has made tackling OIC its main effort and has heavily pivoted resource and capability to tackle the facilitators and enablers of people smuggling, leading to a 55% rise in OIC-related arrests. UK law enforcement has collectively delivered 46% more disruptions - 29% of those major disruptions with a long-term impact - 74% more arrests and the seizure of hundreds of boats and engines. This has been supported by the passing of the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Act 2025, which introduced new counter-terror style powers and new offences to investigate and deter offending.

The BSAI Act also requires the Border Security Commander to report on how they have exercised their functions over the previous financial year and set out their assessment of the performance of the Border Security System. This report outlines how the Commander has strengthened, aligned and driven the system to deliver against clear strategic priorities to counter the threat we face.

The report also includes an evaluation of the collective contributions to outcomes and highlights the positive impact of the Border Security System in tackling illegal migration and reducing dangerous crossings, including increased investment in the Border Security Command and across the system, strengthened cooperation with international and domestic partners, and a renewed international effort to disrupt organised immigration crime.

The public rightly expect us to control who and what enter this country. It is one of the most fundamental duties of the state and remains a top priority for me and the government I serve in. This report sets out significant achievements which amount to a major upscaling of the UK's Border Security System. It has been a strong start – but further work is needed. We know that illegal migration remains one of the defining issues of our time. The BSC will be at the forefront of our continued efforts to meet that challenge.

I thank all partners and agencies, both domestically and internationally, for their continued efforts to tackle this threat and protect the United Kingdom.

Copies of the report will be available in the Vote Office, and it will also be published on GOV.UK.