Home Office | Border Force

Transforming the UK Border for Passengers in Vehicles

2026

UK Border Trials
Private & Public BETA Trials in Portsmouth International Port

Private Beta
Testing capture solutions with volunteers without impacting live operations

- In Portsmouth Port, testing will assess performance against a variety of demographics in a port environment
- Pending a successful trial in Portsmouth, limited testing will be conducted in further sites to validate the solution is working as expected

Public Beta
Testing capture solutions with real passengers without impacting live operations

- In Portsmouth Port, testing will assess performance against real passengers and realistic user behaviours, without impacting live Border Force operations
- Pending a successful trial in Portsmouth, limited testing will be conducted in further sites to validate the solution is working as expected

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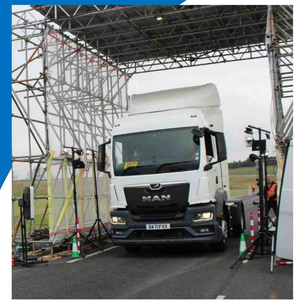

2025

Facial Comparison Trials
known as 'Technical Spikes'

Research & Development Trials

After early trials in 2023, the AoF Maritime project completed a three-part series of Research & Development Trials in 2024-25, testing facial comparison technologies for individuals presenting in-vehicle at the UK Border

4 Suppliers Solutions tested

3 Test Cycles Completed

2,500+ Loops

3 Vehicle Types Cars, HGVs and Luton Van

Stationary Solutions (x2)

***Vehicle stops**, occupants detected by system, cameras capture facial images through each side window down, and clearance is provided via traffic light/barrier*

Moving Solutions (x2)

***Vehicle remains moving** and passengers detected as it passes through, cameras capture facial images through front windscreen*

2024

2023

Proof of Concept

Future Border Immigration Systems identified feasible technical solutions which can move towards contactless border crossing, creating proof of concepts (PoCs) of the most promising potential solutions and testing these in a simulated border scenario.

This was the initial step in the Maritime mode, seeking to identify and verify a traveller's identity in a multi-occupancy vehicle with multiple vehicle types through facial comparison