



Essex Police Headquarters,
PO Box 2, Springfield,
Chelmsford,
Essex. CM2 6DN
Tel.101
23rd November 2021

Organised Crime Groups – Drugs Importation via Boats & Planes.

The purpose of this letter is to raise awareness of an issue relating to Organised Crime Groups and the importation of controlled substances.

Essex Police are aware that criminals around the Tendring coastline are using boats and small planes to drop off drugs on the mud banks. These packages are then collected by the criminal gangs and brought ashore and thus avoiding the chances of being stopped by Customs at a port and losing their shipments. These controlled drugs are then distributed and sold within the community of Essex and beyond.

As part of our commitment to tackling organised crime, we are writing to the local Marinas and boating community to ask for your support in identifying potential suspicious behaviour so that we can work together to protect our Community.

You will undoubtedly be aware of the detrimental effects, misery and harm that drugs bring, not only to our wider communities but, in particular, to those vulnerable individuals within society.

How can you help

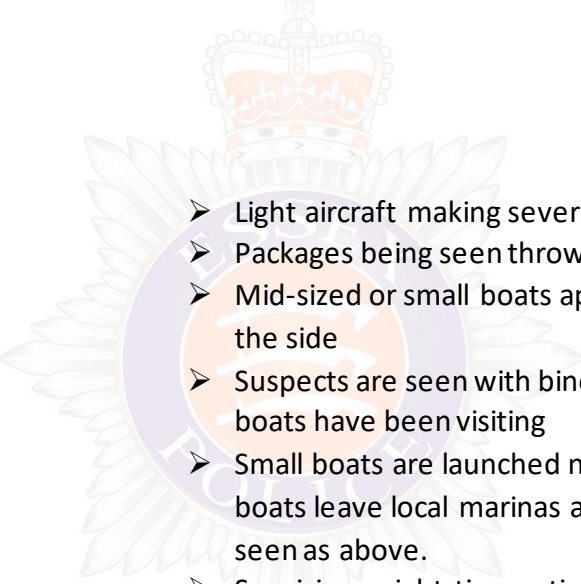
There are a number of signs to look for which may be indicators that these criminal activities are taking place.

Signs to look for



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- Light aircraft making several slow passes over the same strip of coastline
 - Packages being seen thrown or dropped out of these planes
 - Mid-sized or small boats approach stretches of the coastline and drop packages over the side
 - Suspects are seen with binoculars looking out in the same areas where the planes or boats have been visiting
 - Small boats are launched near to these locations from the back of a trailer or small boats leave local marinas about the same time as the small planes and boats are seen as above.
 - Suspicious night-time activity
 - General suspicious behaviour

Police will always look to work with the boating community, and we are grateful for your support.

Should you have any suspicions or concerns please report them to Essex Police via “101”. You can also report anonymously to CrimeStoppers at crimestoppers-uk.org on 0800 555 111.

Regards

Steve Davey

Prevent & Protect OCG Officer

Essex Police

steven.davey@essex.police.uk