



**Australian  
BORDER FORCE**

## Statement

### Stopping Hong Kong travellers at the border

Assertions have been made in the media about the Australian Border Force (ABF) singling out and stopping travellers to Australia from Hong Kong.

Travellers from Hong Kong are not being singled out for extraordinary identity and baggage checks. It is common practice for the ABF to confirm the identity of all travellers coming into Australia and ensure there is a legitimate reason for travel.

Our officers undertake these important duties for anyone crossing the Australian border.

ABF officers routinely request travel documentation from incoming passengers at the border and will occasionally conduct routine searches. If the identity of an individual is confirmed as legitimate and their intention for travel matches their approved purpose, they will be permitted entry.

Routine checks conducted under the Customs Act may include checking the belongings of travellers coming into Australia. This may include baggage and electronic devices. These checks help us to confirm the identity of individuals, their purpose for travel and ensure travellers are not bringing in items or digital content restricted under the Customs Act.

Our officers are professional and treat all travellers with dignity and respect and in accordance with the law.

**For further information: 02 6264 2211**

Released by the Department of Home Affairs  
under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

**CLEARANCE:**

<b>Cleared by</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Time/Date cleared</b>
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director ABF Public Affairs	1151hrs, 5/9/2019
Craig Palmer	Regional Commander Vic/Tas	1443 hrs, 5/9/2019
Tony Smith	CoS to Commissioner	1511hrs, 5/9/2019