

Czech man convicted of money laundering after being found with £860,000 in cash

A 42-year-old man from the Czech Republic, was yesterday convicted of money laundering offences after being arrested at Glasgow Airport as part of a Police Scotland and National Crime Agency (NCA) intelligence-led investigation into the export of cash from the United Kingdom to Dubai.

On 8 November 2020, Lukas Pokorny was stopped and arrested by Border Force officers as he was about to board a flight bound for Dubai.



A search of three suitcases in his possession revealed a large quantity of cash in each – totalling over £860,000. He was unable to provide keys to unlock the luggage, or say who they belonged to or what they contained.

Officers from the Organised Crime Partnership (Scotland) charged Pokorny and today he pled guilty to three charges under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 at the High Court in Glasgow.

Pokorny claimed he was flying to the United Arab Emirates to stay with a friend and the money was to allow him to teach people to jet-ski.

Detective Inspector Tom Gillan of the Organised Crime Partnership (Scotland) said: “Targeting the movement of criminal cash and profits from organised crime groups in Scotland remains a priority.

“The arrest and conviction of Pokorny is another excellent example of the value of partnership working between Organised Crime Partnership, Border Force and National Crime Agency

officers.

“I welcome his conviction and the significant amount of laundered cash that has been taken out of criminal circulation.”

NCA regional head of investigations for Scotland Gerry McLean added: “This was a significant seizure of criminal cash, the proceeds of organised crime. Taking it out in has prevented that money being invested into further criminal activity, violence and exploitation on the streets of Scotland.

“Working with partners including Police Scotland and Border Force we are determined to do all we can to disrupt the flow of illicit finance.”

The Organised Crime Partnership (Scotland) is an investigation team comprising of officers and staff from Police Scotland and the National Crime Agency.

Chris Philp MP, UK Minister for Immigration Compliance and the Courts, said: “Money laundering is used by serious organised crime gangs to finance their illegal activity. Preventing the export of undeclared cash from the UK is vital in our fight against them.

“This is yet another example of the brilliant Border Force officers in Glasgow airport who work tirelessly on the frontline to keep the UK safe.”