



Dear whom it may concern,

I am writing to express our frustration toward the sheer disregard to road safety and the interest of public safety displayed by many taxi drivers in and around Torquay, in particular, Torquay harbour side.

This issues are the fact they not only park on the bus stop before midnight, causing passengers boarding buses to alight and disembark in the middle of the road, they think it's acceptable to park in and around the clock tower roundabout casing a real issue for larger vehicles and create blind spots for all road users alike.

I have spoken with the police who stated "it's not our problem, take it up the council/Highways agency" even though, it is actually a road traffic offence, blocking the road/public highway.

The officer in question not only stated it wasn't his problem but the fact he said " I cannot be bothered to stand here, issuing tickets or to usher them on", which is a joke as far as I'm concerned as he should be acting in the interest of the public, preventing a possible accident.

I accept they have a job to do but Torquay is home to many taxi ranks, not including the roundabout or the bus stop before midnight, so why they have to abuse this facility I really don't understand. The Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 states "if a rank is full, you must move on to the next one", an act which isn't followed as it should be.

As a regular passenger on buses, I frequently see this of an evening particular Friday and Saturday nights where the demand for taxis is increasingly high but in my opinion safety is paramount.

I had a brief chat with the street pastors who are there every weekend and they said and I quote, " it's a danger to people's safety, whether that be other road users or people who are intoxicated walking in the street with taxis in the way of junctions and pavements where they shouldn't even be".

Recently, I was actually threatened by a taxi driver, licence place 76 (registration plate 413DDV) , for asking him to move on out of the bus stop as I was assisting a bus trying to pull into the stop at 22:15, way before the designated times for them to be there. He shouted at me" I hope you fu**ing float, as I'll chuck you in the harbour", to which I just walked away.

I am asking you to review the situation and do something about it as it's getting worse every week, causing danger to public safety.

I must add, I do feel sorry for those who follow the rules as the ones who use the bus stops and roundabouts are effectively queue jumping and are making the job harder for the ones that are trying to earn a living, again, on behalf of them, is a reason it should be put to an end.

I appreciate that the amount of cuts the government are making and the fact it is quite late when this facility is being abused is of some difficulty for you but would it be possible to monitor the situation on a Friday or Saturday night when it's out of hand the most?

Here is a list of registrations and licensing plates that abuse the facilities on a regular basis, parking on said bus stops and even the roundabout junction.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Thanks for your time,


