

Appendix 2b

Please reply to: Steve Cox,
Principal Safety & Licensing Officer, Licensing
Section, Roebuck House, Torquay. TQ2 5EJ
My ref: SJC/SJC/0617353

To Hackney Carriage Drivers

Your ref:
Telephone: 01803 208126
Fax: 01803 208854
E-mail: Licensing@torbay.gov.uk
Website: www.torbay.gov.uk
Date: 3rd April 2009

Dear

Re: Torquay Harbourside & The Strand Taxi rank and Bus Bay

I am writing to you and all other Hackney Carriage drivers to update you on the current situation with respect to taxi ranks and bus bays on the harbourside. The new rank, which is the bus bay on the harbourside of The Strand is now in place, for use after midnight. Stagecoach has agreed to move their final summer buses to the Debenham's side of The Strand to help facilitate this.

Unfortunately Hackney Carriage driver's have taken to using the Debenham's side of The Strand as well, for queuing. This is creating a similar problem that we were trying to resolve on the seaward side, that buses and other vehicles that are using that area legally, are potentially dropping passengers off away from the curb side. This is also happening at the GPO roundabout on the top of Fleet Walk by Tesco's. This could lead to a serious road incident, with potential injury or worse. There have already been a couple of near misses. I am sure this is not something you would wish to see and as a representative of Torbay Council I simply cannot allow to occur.

I must therefore insist that you do not use these areas, notably the bus bays on either side of The Strand and at the old GPO roundabout, by Tesco's. In the case of the seaward side of The Strand, this is just before midnight. This will also apply to any other areas which may cause obstruction of the highway or where there are Road Traffic Orders in place. If anybody is caught using them then they run the risk that action being taken against them, by way of fixed penalty notice or being brought before Licensing Committee.

I am sure this will be seen by many as unreasonable, but you must understand that waiting in these areas is not in compliance with the Road Traffic Orders, which are there to give everybody a share in the road space available, and as I said in my previous letter, there isn't sufficient space for all the competing interests.

Torbay Council is continuing to try and find further alternative spaces, to add to the 31 available after midnight on the harbourside. There are consultations taking place in several areas, following a meeting with the Taxi Association. I will give support to these and work on your behalf to try and secure more rank space, but I cannot promise anything at this time, as at least one location will also require Department of Transport approval, which will take time.

Schools and services for children and young people ● social care and housing ● recycling, waste disposal and clean streets ● community safety ● roads and transportation ● town planning ● tourism, harbours and economic regeneration ● consumer protection and licensing ● leisure, museums, libraries and arts

If you require this in a different format or language, please contact me.

In due course I will write again to confirm any changes we have been able to achieve, but meanwhile be warned that enforcement action will commence before Easter.

If you have any queries then please ring Craig Noble, Shaun Rackley or myself.

Yours sincerely

Steve Cox
Principal Safety & Licensing Officer
Environmental Health & Consumer Protection