

Appendix 3

Please reply to: Steve Cox,
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My ref: SJC/SJC/0618806

Your ref:

To ALL HC Drivers

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Date: 31st August 2010

Dear

Re: Hackney Carriage Drivers

I am writing to you following a meeting of the Torbay Taxi Association dated 17th August 2010, which I attended along with two colleagues from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a proposal by Torbay Council and Devon and Cornwall Constabulary to remove the Vaughan Parade and The Strand Bus Stop ranks and to replace them with new temporary ranks on Torwood Street.

This was met with complete opposition, due a number of reasons. Some of those reasons had validity but maybe some less so. The vast majority present preferred an option of hard enforcement to address the concerns of public safety, so targeting those who refuse to take responsibility for their actions. Since that meeting Officers at Torbay Council have met with their Police colleagues to review our response.

I am writing to all Hackney Carriage Drivers and Plate holders to confirm that response and to offer a compromise to these concerns. The first is that the Vaughan Parade rank will remain in use during the working day (between 6am to 6pm), so those drivers that rely upon it can continue to do so.

We are also offering to retain the Vaughan Parade rank during the evening and night (between 6pm to 6am) and The Strand Bus Bay rank (harbour side of The Strand between midnight and 6am), for a trial period of two months. However, this does **NOT** include The Strand Bus Bay (harbour side) between 9pm and midnight, which has been allowed 'unofficially' to be used as a rank.

If after a trial period of 2 months the problems continue, then these provisions will be withdrawn. The two months will commence from 6pm on 17th September 2010.

Finally a temporary rank will be installed outside The Clocktower pub, on Torwood Street in Torquay on Friday and Saturday evenings 6pm to 6am, as a means of trying to ease the situation though it may not be in place by the 17th September 2010, though I am hoping it will be.

The problems I make reference to above, include the queuing on the Clock Tower roundabout, or the driving around it numerous times which results in traffic being blocked, or any queuing in unauthorised bus bays or where there are Road Traffic Orders. The removal of the 9pm to midnight 'unofficial' use of

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the rear of The Strand (harbourside) is due to significant concerns that have arisen recently with drivers queuing on the Clock Tower roundabout, and buses using the roundabout. This has been made more difficult recently due to the hoardings that surround the Clock Tower meaning buses do not have a good line of sight. This was only ever agreed originally providing drivers policed it and did not queue on to the roundabout. However, this has not been the case and as such, this provision is now withdrawn

Although Torbay Council and the Police will endeavour to enforce during the specified trial period, the ultimate responsibility is for ALL drivers to ensure that the trial is a success. The responsibility is therefore partially yours if you work in this area at night. If you do work on Torquay harbourside at night and you want to keep these ranks then obey the Road Traffic Orders and help ensure that others do too.

Earlier this year Torbay Council used its Licensing Committee to support the work of the Police and the Parking Enforcement Team and a number of drivers were suspended for 7 days. So can you please take this as a warning as any driver who is caught parking or queuing in areas with Road Traffic Orders, runs the risk of having their drivers licence suspended. Although our enforcement will be concentrating initially on the harbourside, this will apply elsewhere too.

If you have any enquiries then please do not hesitate to contact Craig Noble, Shaun Rackley or myself.

Yours sincerely

Steve Cox
Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)
Community Safety