



Dear

Public Safety – Luton Town Centre

Over the past months Bedfordshire Police has become increasingly concerned in relation to drivers who regularly flout road traffic regulations, obstructing the highway to vehicles (including emergency vehicles), parking on or close to junctions, driving in bus lanes (if not permitted) and parking on double yellow lines. Officers also report a minority of drivers being rude and obstructive when asked to move their vehicles.

Whilst this applies to all drivers in Luton I am writing to you as a licensed hackney or private hire driver in Luton who may well work regularly in Luton town centre, particularly late into the evening picking up customers from pubs, clubs and restaurants etc.

This negative behaviour has a huge impact of the safety of persons socialising in the centre of Luton, particularly if vehicles, especially those from emergency services, cannot freely pass through the town. Apart from the safety aspects, it does not reflect well on Luton as a place to visit and negatively impacts on the perception people have of Luton.

The areas of major concern in the town centre are: Wellington Street, especially at the junctions with the pedestrian area and with George Street; Gordon Street, especially the junctions with George Street and Dunstable place; Dunstable Place, especially the section by Kink and Stuart Street, both outside Flame and at the junction with Wellington Street.

Effective immediately all police officers working in the town centre will be instructed to carry their penalty notices and will be carrying out a “no tolerance” approach to any driver from either trade who flouts traffic regulations and obstructs the highway. This will be in partnership with Luton Borough Council CCTV Team.

Bedfordshire Police will work closely with Luton Borough Council and inform them of any fixed penalty notice that is issued to a driver. Luton Borough Council will then review the licence for any offending drivers and the appropriate action will be taken. This may include suspension or referral to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Panel for them to consider whether the driver is a fit and proper person to continue at a Luton Licensing driver.

I am confident that Bedfordshire Police and Luton Borough Council will get support and co-operation from both the hackney and private hire trades in ensuring that persons visiting the town are safe and all vehicles can ensure safe passage through the town.

Yours sincerely

Bob Johnston
Chief Inspector Operations
Luton Police Station

Colleen Welfare
Head of Environmental and Consumer Services
Luton Borough Council