

Overview

The Stagecoach School Bus that collects pupils from St Joseph’s Primary School at 3pm has a history of regularly being parked on the Huntly Street, Riverside Pavement.

Below is a log of observations made at the beginning of October 2020. Stagecoach were kept informed of the observed behaviour. They responded that they had advised their drivers that *“under no circumstances are they to park in the Disabled Bay”*. They also confirmed that they had given similar advice regarding the Riverside Pavement (although they failed to provide details). Apart from one day, parking in the Disabled Bay and on the Riverside Pavement has continued. Subsequent emails have gone unanswered.

Conclusion

The riverside pavement (excluding the marked bays) is a Cycle Track. The Roads (Scotland) Act states clearly that it is an offence to drive or park a motor vehicle on a Cycle Track. Police Scotland (Inverness) will only take action in response to obstruction and generally prefer to leave it to be handled by Highland Council Parking – who have no power to apply this section of the Roads Act. Instead, the Council have designated Huntly Street as a Restricted Parking Zone where parking is only allowed in the marked bays. Parking a bus on the riverside pavement or in the disabled bay could attract a Highland Council Fixed Penalty Notice but the probability of a Parking Enforcement Officer being present is small.

Th 01 Oct – Parked on Riverside Pavement

Reported to Stagecoach but no response received.



M 05 Oct – Parked in Disabled Parking Bay

Reported to Stagecoach.



Stagecoach – Regularly parking school bus on cycle track or in disabled bay.

16 Oct 2020

Tu 06 Oct – Reply from Stagecoach, drove on Riverside Pavement, parked in Disabled Bay

“A notice has been put out to drivers to advise that under no circumstances are they to park in the disabled bay.” This response only related to parking in the disabled bay so a clear statement was requested regarding parking on the pavement. This resulted in the following [bland] reply:

“Yes, apologies I have raised this issue also and again the drivers will be advised on this.”

Later that day, despite advice, the bus initially drove onto the riverside pavement. Then, when the disabled bay became vacant, the driver parked the bus in the disabled bay.



W 07 Oct– Stopped on the roadway [No photo]

Th 08 Oct – Parked on Riverside Pavement



F 09 Oct 2020 15.00 – Stagecoach School Bus parked in Disabled Parking Bay

Reported to Stagecoach that stopping on the roadway is the only legal option if the loading bay is occupied. Requested that Stagecoach comply with the Law.

