



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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Dear Cabinet Secretary,

TACKLING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON BUSES

I am writing to follow up on the issue of tackling antisocial behaviour on buses across Scotland.

We have discussed antisocial behaviour (ASB) on buses in our meetings previously and I believe we are equally keen to tackle this ongoing and increasingly concerning issue effectively for the benefit of bus drivers and the commuting public.

I have been contacted by a number of constituents who are bus drivers that are being impacted by the recent increases in ASB and I have also spoken with Unite the Union representatives who are raising the concerns of their members who do not feel enough is being done to protect bus drivers at work. This type of behaviour also has a detrimental impact on other passengers, leading to people feeling less safe on our public transport network.

I am writing as I hope that we can work collaboratively to find a solution to this issue that will mean a safer working environment for drivers and a safer transport network for passengers.

I believe Unite the Union have shared their proposals with you for a 15-step plan to be adopted by bus operators to ensure the safety of bus drivers in their work place – I have repeated these below for your information:

1. De-escalation training to be given to all staff.
2. All buses must be fitted with robust safety screens.
3. CCTV on buses must be working, an audit to be carried out in all locations. A weekly check to be carried out thereafter.
4. CCTV in all bus stations to be in good working order and must cover all parts of the bus stations.
5. Panic buttons in all vehicles which should be audible.
6. Cab doors fitted with robust locking system.
7. Bus station to have keypad locks fitted after the council close the facilities, for drivers' safety.
8. Police radio in all traffic offices.
9. Security in all bus stations, security to be supplied with stab vest and body worn cameras.
10. Higher police presence at areas of concern.



11. Joint communications to be sent out on how to deal with anti-social behaviour on bus and given to staff.
12. Joint meetings with the local authority and police, the company and Unite.
13. In school safety talks by the company and trade unions.
14. A monitoring mechanism for the company to identify the small minority who are causing the issues on buses.
15. Removal of services in volatile areas of anti-social behaviour.

Having discussed these with Unite the Union representatives, I believe these are a good starting point for action that can be taken to help make bus drivers safer in the workplace and discussions should be had on how we can ensure actions like the above are implemented.

With the above in mind and given the various ways that ASB can be tackled and the number of stakeholders with a role in either the delivery of bus services or the tackling of antisocial behaviour, I believe the best way forward would be to organise a summit that brings together the key stakeholders – trade unions, bus operators, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, local authorities, among others – to begin the necessary work of devising and delivering a plan of action to tackle antisocial behaviour for good and I would be grateful if you could consider working with me to arrange this as a matter of priority.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP

