

Councillor Gordon Mackenzie
The City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 1YJ

Date 27 September 2010

Your ref

Our ref P7/7/404160/LKH

Dear Councillor Mackenzie

ASSAULTS ON EDINBURGH CYCLE PATHS

Thank you for your e-mail forwarding Mr Coppock's comments and enquiry with regard to records kept of assaults on Edinburgh's cycle paths.

The Council's Neighbourhood Community Safety teams work closely with the Police to try to combat or prevent criminal or anti-social behaviour in the city. Every month, in each of the six Neighbourhoods, Community Safety staff meet with the Police, the Fire Service, and social workers to discuss live issues and ongoing concerns in the area. At these Tasking & Co-ordinating (TAC) group meetings the officers agree how best to act and which agency should take the lead.

In the West Neighbourhood area, for example, Community Safety staff are aware of the assault on Ms Cheesmond last month. The team is currently exploring the possibility of using mobile CCTV surveillance on the cycle network in that area, though I understand there are still some technical issues to resolve. I am also informed that the police are now giving the cycle path area near to the footbridge extra attention, as apparently there have been other incidents of objects being dropped or thrown.

The Police, of course, hold a record of all incidents reported. The Force Information Unit will be able to give Mr Coppock more information about records held, and whether the system allows a search to be carried out of incidents that take place on cycle paths. The Force Information Unit can be contacted on fiu@lbb.pnn.police.uk or at 0131 311 3901.

Dave Anderson, Director, City Development
Transport, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ



I would ask Mr Coppock to encourage all Cyclists Touring Club members to report any incidents, so that the Police and Community Safety teams are kept as well informed as possible. Anti-social behaviour should be reported to the relevant Community Safety Team Leader (list of contacts below), while criminal behaviour should be reported to the Police (0131 3111 3131). With the help of the public the Council can continue working to make the city's cycle path network as safe and as attractive as possible; and leading to a 'virtuous circle', whereby the more cyclists there are, the safer the network becomes.

We will also raise the issue at the Council's Cycle Forum next week, with a view to asking Spokes to encourage its members to report incidents.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Lynda Haughney, Transport Officer, on 0131 469 3633 or email Lynda.haughney@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Signature of or on behalf of

Marshall Poulton
Head of Transport

Area Community Safety Team Leaders

West - Susan Carson – 0131 469 5460
South West - Raymond Rickis – 0131 527 3819
North - Kirsty Rodger – 0131 529 7137
East - Zoe Bonthron – 0131 661 7063
South - Kathy Evans – 0131 529 5106
City Centre - Simon Porteous – 0131 529 7088

Cc Susan Carson, West Neighbourhood Community Safety Team Leader
Libby Strong, West Neighbourhood Community Safety Manager