



Please reply to:  
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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013

Ms Joanne Stone  
Manager - Cramlington Delivery Office  
Royal Mail  
Crow Hall Lane  
Northumberland  
NE23 1DJ

Dear Ms Stone

### **Parking by Royal Mail Employees at Cramlington Station Car Park**

SEN RUG is a local campaign group that represents rail passengers travelling by train to, from, within and through South East Northumberland, and also potential passengers who would travel by train if only a range of circumstances were correct, including station facilities.

Rail travel has seen significant growth in recent years. SEN RUG has already achieved modest service improvements at Cramlington and is calling for significant further improvements to be delivered for Cramlington in the next franchise period.

As numbers of rail passengers grow, station parking has increasingly become an issue. Some SEN RUG correspondents are now reporting they are abandoning attempts to travel by train from Cramlington because they can not find a parking space.

It has been brought to our attention this problem is worsened by Royal Mail staff using the station car park whilst at their place of work. People have been noted leaving cars in the station car park and walking in to the Royal Mail office wearing a red fleece with the Royal Mail logo on it. Some cars are being left in the station car park from around 7.30 am

in the morning, significantly before regular commuters start to arrive for the first train to Newcastle at 08.02 am.

I presume you are aware that the station car park is for rail passengers only. It is most unfortunate that some persons wishing to use the train are finding they are unable to do so because there is nowhere to park. Could I ask you to remind your staff not to park in the station car park unless they are travelling by train. And could I also ask you to confirm Royal Mail provides adequate staff parking for its employees who travel to work by car.

A second problem is inappropriate roadside parking on the approach road past the Delivery Office to the station car park. This often reduces the width of the road to just one car, and there is an issue with cars having to reverse back round the bend to let oncoming cars pass. Some of our correspondents are concerned the situation is getting dangerous and an accident increasingly likely, alongside difficulties of potential access by the emergency services in the event of an incident at the station. I'd be most grateful if you could also bear this point in mind in advising your staff of the most appropriate place to park.

Thank you in anticipation for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Dennis Fancett**

Chair, SENRUG - The South East Northumberland Rail User Group.