

Mr. Tim Walker  
Senior Engineer  
Public Realm Projects  
London Borough of Southwark

London Fire Brigade is run by the London  
Fire and Emergency Planning Authority

Date 24 November 2011  
Our Ref Fire appliance access/Brook Drive,  
SE1

Dear Mr. Walker

**Fire appliance access-Brook Drive, SE1**

I am writing you with regard to recent difficulties my crew have experienced due to parked vehicles in Brook Drive at its junction with Hayles Street and Church Yard Row, SE1.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011, our appliance was mobilised to an incident that required access to Brook Drive. The crew were unable to make either a left or right turn out of Hayles Street into Brook Drive due to parked vehicles at this junction. Similar difficulties with parked minibuses at the junction of Brook Drive and Church Yard Row were also experienced.

The Fire Authority has appliance attendance time targets that are currently set at 6 minutes for the first appliance and 8 minutes for the second appliance to attend an incident. As you will appreciate, a fire appliance encountering parked vehicles impeding its way enroute to an incident could result in its attendance being delayed.

By way of example for the amount of space a fire appliance requires to turn, I have enclosed a Fire Safety Guidance Note that explains the access arrangements needed for fire appliances. As is described within Appendix 1, the maximum width of a fire appliance is 2.5m, with a maximum length of 7.9m and a maximum wheel base length of 4.4m. This results in a turning circle of 15.5m and a swept turning circle of 17.5m. Whilst there are many junctions that create a tight space for our drivers to manoeuvre within, the presence of parked vehicles close by only makes this even harder.

Our crews, wherever possible, try to educate road users about the need to park considerately by leaving a printed leaflet entitled "Think before you park", but this only has limited impact.

I have been briefed by Yvonne on your proposed course of action and I thank you for the attention you have given this issue so far. I would be more than happy to comment on any further proposals you may consider, as would I be for my crews to conduct a live demonstration on a Sunday. Please let me know when you are considering doing this and I will arrange for my crew to be available.

If I can be of any further assistance, or you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Roe**  
Station Manager

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Enclosure(s)