



Hillingdon Borough
www.met.police.uk

Personal Safety Awareness on Public Transport

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hillingdon Police have recently received a slightly increased number of reports relating to sexual harassment on public transport. We want to reassure our community that these reports are being taken seriously, and we are committed to identifying those responsible and taking appropriate action.

While investigations are ongoing, an important part of preventing these incidents is educating and empowering young people to stay safe when travelling. Many students regularly use public transport to travel to and from school, and with the summer months approaching, they may also be spending more time out with friends and travelling later in the day or evening.

We would therefore ask parents and guardians to take time to speak with their children about personal safety and how to respond if they ever feel uncomfortable or unsafe while travelling.

Personal Safety Tips

Please encourage your young person to:

- **Avoid travelling alone where possible.** Travelling with friends or in groups can help young people feel safer and provides support if an issue arises.
- **Stay aware of their surroundings.** Encourage them to avoid distractions where possible and remain alert to the people and environment around them.
- **Trust their instincts.** If someone or something makes them feel uncomfortable, they should move away to a different seat, carriage, bus stop, or area where other people are present.
- **Seek help from transport staff.** If they are on a bus and feel unsafe, they should speak to the driver as soon as possible.
- **Contact the police in an emergency.** If they are in immediate danger or a crime is taking place, they should call **999**. For non-emergency matters, incidents can be reported by calling **101** or through the police online reporting service.
- **Report concerns as soon as possible.** Prompt reporting helps police gather evidence and take action against offenders.

Reporting Concerns

It is important that young people know how and where they can report concerns or incidents. Please discuss with them the different options available, including:

- Speaking to a parent, guardian, or trusted adult.
- Reporting the matter to their school or a member of school staff.
- Contacting the police directly via **999**, **101**, or online.
- Reporting anonymously through **Fearless** at www.fearless.org. Fearless is part of the Crimestoppers charity and allows young people to share information about crime 100% anonymously, meaning their identity will not be disclosed.

By working together and encouraging open conversations about personal safety, we can help young people feel more confident, informed, and safe when using public transport.

Kind regards,

Hillingdon Police.