

6 May 2016

Councillor Donna Jones
Portsmouth City Council
Members Services
Floor 3, Core 5, Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

Neville Smith
NS/RCP/tb/050516

Dear Councillor Jones

Commercial Vehicles Parking in Portsmouth City

Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 2016 bringing to my attention residents' concerns about commercial vehicles parking on Portsmouth roads.

I fully appreciate residents' concerns regarding the growing pressure on residential roads from general parking and can understand the need to target employers who may have a large local vehicle dependent work force parking on the City's roads. We have approximately four employees who park car sized company owned vehicles and one with a slightly longer van on Portsmouth City roads.

Our business is to provide a constant supply of water to our customers and importantly the residents of Portsmouth City. Those employees parking on City roads are on call in case of emergencies, such as dealing with burst water mains. Tools, equipment and information are stored in the vans and allows for a rapid response to bursts. We can normally control bursts and minimise consequential damage to properties from flood water within 40 minutes of the burst occurring. If they were to not park at their homes, response times would increase by approximately 90 minutes with consequential impact on people and property.

In view of the low number of Company vehicles and the consequence of not parking at their home on the roads of the City, I hope you will agree, on balance, for this small group of workers it would be best to continue with on street parking.

We do provide regular reminders to our workforce through "Tool Box Talks" and the Company newsletter to park carefully and with due consideration to neighbours and other road users. I will ensure your concerns are relayed to our work force.

Thank you for taking the time to raise this issue with me and I trust I have provided you with a balanced response.

Yours sincerely

NEVILLE SMITH
Managing Director

Portsmouth Water.