

By Email

Ms Rhona Brankin MSP
Convener
Public Petitions Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 14 December 2010

PE 1098 Mandatory fitting of seat belts on school buses.

PE 1223 School bus safety.

Dear Ms Brankin,

I recently attended and gave evidence at the Public Petitions Committee meeting on the 26th October 2010 in relation to the two petitions above. At the conclusion of the evidence Chief Constable Giannasi stated that he and I would supply information regarding "Operation Coachman". I understand that you have received correspondence from Chief Constable Giannasi giving the current position in England and Wales.

May I offer the following information, which gives an overview of the work being carried out in Scotland with regards to School bus safety.

There has been no work carried out under the banner of "Operation Coachman" for some considerable time, however Police forces throughout the country do carry out checks of buses, minibuses and private hire vehicles used to transport children to and

David JR Strang QPM BSc MSc Chief Constable

Lothian and Borders Police
Headquarters
Fettes Avenue
Edinburgh EH4 1RB

Tel: +44 (0)131 311 3131
Fax: +44 (0)131 311 3315
Textphone: +44 (0)131 311 3944
Email: enquiries@lbp.pnn.police.uk
Web: www.lbp.police.uk

from school and on excursions during school time to ensure that they comply with the current safety requirements. This work is generally carried out with the assistance of the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) and in conjunction with local authorities.

VOSA also increase their own activity around this issue during the months of May and June when school excursions have been traditionally more prevalent.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely.

Charlie Common.
Chief Superintendent,
Operations Division.