

# Operation Park Safe

## Sheffield North West and South East trial

### What is Operation Park Safe?

Operation Park Safe was introduced as a trial by the Sheffield North West Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) in June 2022, after the local community named bad parking as a key priority in terms of issues they want the police to tackle.

Operation Park Safe provides members of the community with an easy way to report local parking offences that police deal with via an **online form**. A guide to offences that will be dealt with by Sheffield City Council and the offences which you can report to police is broken down below.

Following the success, the trial is now being expanded to the South East area of Sheffield.

Unfortunately, the police cannot be everywhere. However, this initiative relies on the help of active citizens to help us enforce the law and make our roads safer.

At present, this Operation is only being delivered in the North West and South East areas of Sheffield on a trial basis, and therefore parking issues experienced elsewhere across South Yorkshire cannot be reported in this way.

### What are we asking the public to do?

If you spot a car parked and it is committing an offence, you will need to provide a written statement about the offence including the date and time it happened, alongside a photograph. This can be completed electronically via the Operation Park Safe reporting form. You will need to provide us with your name, address, date of birth and contact details, and confirm that you would be willing to attend court if required and the matter is contested.

The photograph can be obtained from a still of moving footage (e.g. dash cam or helmet cam), but anyone submitting the form must make sure that they do not commit an offence themselves. For example, a mobile phone being used by a driver to take a picture is a serious offence.

A notice of intended prosecution letter needs to be sent to the keeper within 14 days of the offence being committed, so it is vital that photos and a statement are provided as soon as possible.

If you spot someone parking in an inconsiderate manner, do not challenge the driver or get involved in confrontation. Make sure you don't put yourself at risk to obtain a photograph – only take a photograph if it is safe to do so.

### What will we do?

We will look into each report we receive and look to deal with the person responsible and issue fines or educational courses depending on the offence committed.

## Where is the trial taking place?

The trial for Operation Park Safe is continuing in the North West area of Sheffield, and has also been expanded to the South East area of Sheffield.

To find out if you live in the North West or South East areas of Sheffield where the trials are taking place, please enter your postcode in the search function at the bottom of the South Yorkshire Police website homepage.

If you live in the South West, North East or city centre areas, unfortunately, Operation Park Safe is not being delivered in your area and therefore offences in these areas cannot be reported via the form at present.

## What offences will be police deal with?

### Vehicles parked on or in a crossing area



The Highway Code states:

- You must not park on a crossing or in the area covered by the zig-zag lines.
- You must not stop on a pedestrian crossing, including the area marked by the zig-zag lines.
- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

If you wish to report one of the above offences, please take a photograph as evidence, making sure that the crossing lines can be seen as well as the registration mark of the vehicle.

If the vehicle is parked next to the zig-zags, rather than on them, this can still amount to a dangerous position offence because of the way that the vehicle blocks visibility of vulnerable people from drivers travelling along the road – for example wheelchair users or children waiting at the crossing.

The punishment for this offence by way of a fixed penalty notice is three points endorsement and a £100 fine.

### **Vehicles left in a dangerous position on white lines**



The Highway Code states:

- You must not stop or park on a road marked with double white lines, even when a broken white line is on your side of the road, except to pick up or set down passengers, or to load or unload goods.
- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.
- Do not stop or park near the brow of a hill or on a bend.

If you wish to report one of the above offences, please take a photograph as evidence, making sure that the central unbroken white line is visible.

‘Double white lines’ include both unbroken double white lines and a single white line with one side marked with broken white lines. It is illegal to park on a road adjacent to either of these.

This includes parking on the pavement or verge, as these form part of the legal definition of a road. As such, liability cannot be avoided by parking on the pavement or verge next to the double white lines system.

### **Vehicles left in a dangerous position and forcing pedestrians to walk in the road**





The Highway Code states:

- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

If you wish to report the above offence, please take a photograph as evidence, clearly showing the extent that the footpath is obstructed.

If people are having to walk in the road to get past, document this with a photograph or video to provide the best evidence or describe the nature of the obstruction in statement form if not possible.

### **Vehicles left in a dangerous position at or on a junction**



The Highway Code states:

- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.
- Do not stop or park opposite or within 10m (32 feet) of a junction.

If you wish to report one of the above offences, please take two photographs showing the vehicle position in respect of the junction and how it restricts the view of those entering or exiting the junction.

Danger is caused by the parked vehicle blocking the view of drivers at a junction and vehicles having to 'edge out' into live traffic. This is especially dangerous for vulnerable road users such as cyclists or motorcyclists.

Parking in this way may also block the view of pedestrians crossing at junction. For example, drivers approaching a junction may be unable to see pedestrians, especially children, about to cross due to the presence of vehicles.

## School parking offences



The Highway Code states:

- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.
- Do not stop or park near a school entrance.

If you wish to report one of the above offences, take a photograph showing the position of the vehicle, with the registration mark and any yellow zig-zags or 'keep clear' signs clearly visible.

If people park on these markings when children are entering or exiting a school premises, they can be prosecuted for leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position.

## Parking on a cycle track



The Highway Code states:

- You must not stop or park on a cycle track.

If you wish to report the above offence, please take a photograph showing the position of the vehicle, with registration mark clearly visible and cycle track marking also clear.

The definition of cycle track is given in the Highways Act 1980 as being a “shared-use path usable by cyclists and possibly also pedestrians but not motorised vehicles”.

### **Parking a goods vehicle on the road or pavement**



The Highway Code states:

- Vehicles with a maximum laden weight of over 7.5 tonnes (including any trailer) must not be parked on a verge, pavement or any land situated between carriageways, without police permission. The only exception is when parking is essential for loading and unloading, in which case the vehicle must not be left unattended.

If you wish to report the above offence, please take a photograph showing the position of the vehicle, with the registration mark clearly visible.

If the vehicle is liveried, you can also email the company directly to highlight bad practices by their drivers.

## Obstructions to walkways



The Highway Code states:

- You must not leave your vehicle or trailer in a dangerous position or where it causes any unnecessary obstruction of the road.

If you wish to report the above offence, please take a photograph clearly showing the obstruction caused.

This can be an obstruction of the road, for example, making it impossible for vehicles to get past by double parking, or parking in such a way that a large vehicle such as a fire engine cannot pass the parked vehicle.

This can also be parking a vehicle over a drop kerb, where pedestrians have to make a detour to pass the vehicle.

We will look to prosecute obstruction offences where it is not possible for a user of a wheelchair, pram or mobility scooter to navigate the pavement due to the vehicle leaving insufficient space.

## Offences that police cannot deal with

- Single and double yellow line offences can only be enforced by local authority. The parking services department at Sheffield City Council cannot currently act on photographs of these offences submitted by members of the public, as the offences they deal with have to be directly observed by their enforcement officers.
- The Highway Code states that parking partially or wholly on the pavement in London is not allowed, and you should also not do so elsewhere unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments, and people with prams or pushchairs. Concerns around pavement parking should be reported to Sheffield City Council.



To report the persistent abuse of parking on double yellow lines, you can email Sheffield City Council via **[parkingenforcement@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:parkingenforcement@sheffield.gov.uk)**.

