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November 2020 —

Dear Head Teachers and Designated Safeguarding Leads,

I am writing to you following a number of reports we have received recently of a suspicious man in vehicle approaching children either on their way to school or on their way home.

I know that officers may have been in touch with you regarding specific incidents that relate to pupils at your school, however I now think it prudent to contact you all about the reports we have been receiving so that we can keep parents informed across both districts and encourage children to remain vigilant.

The incidents have been reported between November 17 and November 25 and each time the child has described that a man in a car has approached them as they have been walking, and asked them if they wanted a lift, or tried to engage in conversation with them.

Incidents have occurred on:

- Newtown Road, Southampton,
- Satchell Lane, Hamble-Le-Rice
- Wildern Lane, Hedge End
- Lower Northam Road, Hedge End
- Hamble Lane, Bursledon
- Ashley Crescent, Southampton
- Sholing Road, Southampton
- Middle Road, Southampton



Both boys and girls have been approached. On each occasion they have done the right thing by reporting it to an adult. Incidents have occurred in the morning before school, or on their way home after school. No child has got into a car or been hurt in anyway.

Officers from both Southampton and Eastleigh neighbourhood teams are proactively investigating these incidents.

I think it would be helpful if we could reassure parents that we are taking these reports seriously and that police are actively investigating them.

It's important to remember that not every report has been the same and therefore we are looking at all lines of enquiry to identify similarities in the descriptions of the car and man that have been reported.

We understand that these kind of incidents are very concerning for you, parents, and children. It is important to stay alert but not alarmed, remind children that they should not get into anyone's car, or go with anyone they do not know, and to report the incident to us as soon as possible.

I am conscious that you and your staff may well be the first to pick up on any reports or concerns before they reach us. If you feel, based on your professional judgement that we need to undertake any focussed work within your establishment – please let me know.

Can I please also ask that any community intelligence that you may become aware of is submitted expeditiously through the [CPI process](#), which will assist our community response and the investigations.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely

**Police Sergeant Russ Taylor**

**Bitterne & Sholing Neighbourhood Team**

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