**Representation for alleged failure to comply with a restriction on vehicles entering a pedestrian (and cycle) zone on Staveley Road junction with Great Chertsey Road.**

PCN number:

Car registration number

I make representations against the above numbered PCN on the ground that the contravention did not occur as the signage is unclear and inadequate to convey the restriction. As such “there was no failure to comply with an indication” under 1(4)(b)(ii) of Schedule 1 of London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003.

The signs that inform of the restriction are extremely poor and confusing. I attach a picture of one of the main signs which is covered foliage from a tree which the authorities are failing to cut back.

Further if there are buses or large vehicles travelling along the road – the signs are easily obscured – for example the 190 Bus if queued up towards the bus stop on the Great Chertsey Road blocks all view of the signage. This is the only way that road users would be aware of this change.

The speed limit on the Great Chertsey Road – A316 is 40mph and if cars are travelling at that speed – there is simply not enough warning – to see the sign and carefully read the information would force a car to slow down rather suddenly which could be dangerous.

It is also confusing because it is possible and legal to turn left into Staveley Road to go as far as the School but the restriction only starts at some way down the Staveley Road where the signs are very small and easily missed.

If a car or a larger vehicle did see manage to see the signs at that point on Staveley Road, it would then have to make a three point turn in the middle of the road which would be extremely hazardous to other road users. This manoeuvre would involve stopping on the zig-zag lines next to the school entrance (a breach of rule 240 of The Highway Code), all very dangerous.

A further confusion is that several cars are turning into and going straight down Staveley Road and they are legally entitled to do so because they are cars belonging to local residents who have been given an exemption – known as C2.

This causes even more confusion. Given the very poor signage and the large numbers of cars going down Staveley Road, it is effectively penalising motorists travelling through the area, taxis, traders, delivery drivers and visitors who have essential reasons for visiting the area.

The “Pedestrian and cycle zone” sign on Staveley Road which is being enforced cannot be seen from Great Chertsey Road at all. Further to this, Section 208 of The Highway Code instructs drivers Near Schools to “Drive slowly and be particularly aware of young cyclists and pedestrians.” Drivers must pay extra attention to the road, and cannot be reasonably expected to do this and read all of the text on the signage in the very short time from entering Staveley road. **Road users are being asked to be aware of traffic, carefully check for pedestrians in a school area while reading all of the text on a sign that appears seconds after turning into the junction.**

There have been a number of successful appeals against the Staveley Road restriction and even so Hounslow have made little effort to alleviate the situation.

1. Hounslow Council appear to have breached its commitments to best practice stated in their Parking and Traffic Enforcement Policy because the signage is unclear and inadequate.

*“Adopting best practice guidance available, including enforcement operations that are … fair and are reasonable”*

And

*“Communicating clearly to motorists what regulations are in force”*

Having not yet made a Freedom of Information request on the numbers of PCNs issued to drivers on this section of road in comparison to what would be considered reasonable, I urge you to consider this in relation to Hounslow Council’s own commitments to being ‘fair and reasonable’ as stated above.

**Summary**

* The advance warning sign on Great Chertsey Road is regularly obscured from view making it impossible for drivers to be aware of restrictions.
* The sign through which the contravention is being enforced is not visible and legible to the point that a driver could have time to read and be clear of the restrictions without taking a dangerous amount of attention from the road in a school zone (which puts him in contravention of the Highway Code)
* In order to stop a contravention, the driver would have to stop in the road and make a 3-point turn, stopping on a zig zag marking, causing a hazard to road users and further disobeying the highway code.
* The restrictions can not be seen as ‘Fair and reasonable’, a commitment of Hounslow Council.

For these reasons I believe that the signage is evidently unclear and inadequate to convey the restriction. As such, there was no contravention of the Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 and the PCN should be cancelled.

Attached are pictures of:

Signs obscured by trees

Signs which are very small and confusing.