

Public warned over level crossing misuse

July 29, 2022



Network Rail is warning of the dangers of deliberately misusing the railway following a series of incidents at Broughty Ferry level crossing.

In June, our Summer Rail Safety Campaign was launched to raise awareness of rail safety in communities across Scotland. Unfortunately, during the recent good weather, concerns have been raised at Broughty Ferry due to an increase in incidents of misuse.

Since the start of the year, there have been seven serious incidents of deliberate misuse reported at Broughty Ferry. Worryingly, there were four incidents in two days recently.

Most of these relate to drivers failing to stop when the crossing signal is flashing red which, as well as being incredibly dangerous, is a Road Traffic Offence and can lead to penalty points and a fine.

Shona Robison, MSP (Dundee City East Constituency), said: "The recent increase in incidents at the Broughty Ferry Level Crossing is concerning.

"This Level Crossing is an important asset for the local community and misuse presents a serious risk to everyone's safety.

“It’s vital that drivers are alert, take notice of the crossing signal flashing red and stop their vehicle immediately to avoid putting themselves and others in danger.”

Steven Griffin, level crossing manager for Network Rail Scotland, said: “During the summer months we can expect increased traffic at Broughty Ferry level crossing. However, that is no excuse to deliberately misuse the crossing.

“We are urging everyone to follow safety instructions to avoid injuring themselves and others.

“We work closely with British Transport Police to raise awareness of the dangers of misusing crossings and with local councils and other stakeholders to educate the public on how to stay safe near the railway.”

Michael Magee, Inspector, BTP said: “Each year, hundreds of people take risks on and around the railway, resulting in tragic consequences and life-changing injuries.

“We are continuing to proactively patrol the railway network across Scotland. Safety is our number one priority and we’re reminding everyone of the importance of taking care around the railway and that everyone loses when you misuse it.”

Network Rail’s summer safety campaign sees the railway industry work with BTP, councils, and charities to raise awareness of rail safety in communities across Scotland.