

Information Concerning the Convoy

Please see below an actual un-edited copy of a letter that ECTC Chairman Rob Billman has received from Kevin Wilkins, Assistant Chief Constable, Norfolk Constabulary.

We at ECTC do urge you to read this carefully as you will see that several important points are made concerning some issues that may have been misrepresented or reported. Police funding is not a factor and it is very clear that the Police are keen to see that the Convoy is supported as far as possible and is able to continue.

A meeting is taking place on 4th October 2011, to which this letter refers, and we hope to be reporting an update after that meeting.



NORFOLK

CONSTABULARY

Our Priority is You

Ref: KW/SJR

19 September 2011

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Kevin Wilkins
Assistant Chief Constable

Dear *Rob,*

East Coast Truckers' Event – 28 August 2011

Following another successful convoy which attracted much local publicity, I write to congratulate the East Coast Truckers for all their hard work and dedication to the cause of disadvantaged children and to confirm our position for the future.

There have been a number of examples of inaccurate reporting in the media around the policing of the event and it has been widely suggested that the convoy cannot continue because of police budget cuts - that has never been put forward by the police as a reason. Our current cost-cutting programme is unrelated to this issue.

Norfolk Constabulary has been supportive of the East Coast Truckers' annual convoy since it began 26 years ago and we are committed to working with organisers and other partners to help the event continue.

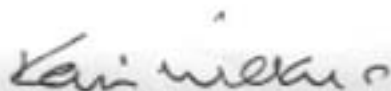
The most important issues in question relate to safety, compliance with legislation and insurance. Our priority is to ensure the safety of all those involved in the convoy; drivers, children and their carers and the safety of the spectators as far as is possible.

At our suggestion, the leader of Broadland District Council, Mr Andrew Proctor, has agreed to host a meeting of organisers, community leaders and relevant agencies, including police. This has been arranged for Tuesday 4 October at Broadland District Council offices.

We will do all we can to help organisers ensure public safety. Under current legislation, it is the organisers of public events who are responsible for public safety. Like the other agencies involved, we also have a role to protect people from harm and it is one we take very seriously.

We look forward to helping inform future discussions about the convoy and in the meantime I would be grateful if you could share the contents of this letter with your members via the East Coast Trucker' website. If you have any resulting queries, please contact Mr Chris Eldridge, Events Planning Manager, at eldridgec@norfolk.pnn.police.uk or 01953 424894.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Wilkins
Assistant Chief Constable

c.c. Cllr Andrew Proctor, Broadland District Council
Ms Chloe Smith MP, Norwich North
Mr Brandon Lewis MP, Great Yarmouth
Mr Simon Wright MP, Norwich South Constituency
Mr Keith Simpson MP, Broadland
Mr Alan Carr, Tourism Manager, Gt Yarmouth Borough Council