

Richard Brown
Chief Executive Officer
tel: +44 (0)20 7922 4422
fax: +44 (0)20 7922 4482
richard.brown@eurostar.co.uk

Dr. Caroline Lucas
Green Party MEP for South East England
Suite 58
The Hop Exchange
24 Southwark Street
London SE1 1TY

10 July 2006

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter of June 16th.

Our security arrangements at Eurostar are in effect determined by Transec, the Transport Security Division of the Department for Transport, under the Channel Tunnel Security Order. They are very similar to the arrangements in place at airports for airline passengers.

In practice, therefore, our response will depend on the size of the Kirpan being carried, which do of course vary in size very considerably. In general any blade of three inches' length or less is now permitted to be carried by passengers - provided this is not a flick knife or lock knife. Any longer than this, and a passenger is not allowed to carry the blade on them personally - but they can of course consign the item to registered luggage so that it is carried in a separate, locked compartment on the train. This would apply to a sword-length Kirpan, for instance.

My understanding is that many symbolic Kirpans are quite small.

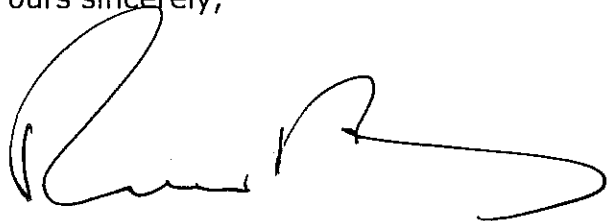
Eurostar Group Ltd
Eurostar House
Waterloo Station
London SE1 8SE

T +44 (0)20 7922 6180

Our staff are encouraged to use their discretion in the case of clearly ceremonial weapons, so if even marginally over the three inches, they should allow a Sikh passenger to carry their Kirpan with them.

Finally I would say that in our experience to date there have been no untoward incidents where a Sikh passenger has had their Kirpan removed. If any of your constituents have actually encountered difficulties, I do hope they or you would draw this to my attention directly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard Brown
Chief Executive