

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Richard Brown
Chief Executive - Eurostar
Eurostar Group,
Eurostar House,
Waterloo Station,
London SE1 8SE.

June 16th 2006

Dear Richard,

I am writing to you about the right of Sikhs to wear a Kirpan. As I am sure you are fully aware, the Kirpan is a ceremonial sword, which Sikhs have a legal right to wear as an article of faith. A number of constituents have written to me about their fears that this right is being undermined by the security arrangements in force on the Eurostar.

I am interested, therefore, to learn what training and guidelines will be given to staff and police at Eurostar stations to ensure that they are aware of the Kirpan, its role and the need to safeguard its wearing by Sikhs. I presume that metal detectors stations will automatically pick up if an individual is wearing a Kirpan, so would also appreciate it if you can tell me how a Sikh can expect to be treated should this occur. And any advice that I can pass onto my constituents about what to do in the event of a breach of their right to wear a Kirpan, as granted by the Criminal Justice Act 1988, would also be useful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.