

**From:** [Darren Wraight](#)  
**To:** [Cliff Hutt](#); [Gavin Brown](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Calder Road Flags  
**Date:** 25 September 2025 13:50:48  
**Attachments:** [Flags - Feedback from other local authorities within the street lighting teams.msg](#)

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Gavin / Cliff

As discussed in Alan's absence I have taken this instruction to organise either Road Operations or Street Lighting operatives to remove flags along Calder Road.

I can confirm that staff have raised the same wellbeing concerns as they did on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September and on this basis are unwilling to remove.

The concerns raised below have been experienced by other authorities and are supported by all Managers within Roads & Infrastructure.

- Threat of violence or intimidation whilst carrying out duties
- Video footage of works being undertaken shared on social media
- Repercussions out with work due to the above

They will however inspect and assess these flags this evening ascertaining if they are a danger to the public or the asset.

The below process which has been issued to Cllrs and followed over the last 2 weeks is in alignment with other local authorities in Scotland and until we can assure our employees safety and a Senior Management instruction is given, I believe this should be adhered to.

*"The process that has been agreed by the Head of Roads & Infrastructure is:*

- 1. Following receipt of a report, the street will be checked to determine whether the location and height of the flag is a danger to the travelling public (e.g. is it obscuring a traffic sign or traffic signal);*
- 2. If the flag is found to be a danger to the travelling public, owing to the issues experienced in [REDACTED], where the Council staff have been threatened with violence when trying to remove flags, Police Scotland will be contacted to protect the operatives from abuse during its removal;*
- 3. If the flag is not a danger to the travelling public, no action will be taken."*

I note that APSE have just issued an invitation to authorities to discuss the issues around the "Raise the Flag Campaign" on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October which senior managers could attend.

Our supply chain has been approached to help with the issues, and none are willing to assist for the same reason and reputational risk

I also attach emails from other authorities showing their position.

Darren


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**From:** Gavin Brown  
**Sent:** 25 September 2025 11:26  
**To:** Cliff Hutt ; Darren Wraight  
**Subject:** FW: Calder Road Flags  
Hi Darren,

as per the text sent this morning; looks like we'll have to take further action.  
Cliff advises that it may be street lighting, but I know we had issues last time.  
Cheers

*I work flexible hours. Although I have sent this email at a time convenient for me, I don't expect you to respond until it works for you.*

**Gavin Brown** | Interim Service Director – Operational Services | Place | Waverley Court, Level 2.6, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | Mob [REDACTED] | [gavin.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.brown@edinburgh.gov.uk) | [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)

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**From:** Gareth Barwell <[Gareth.Barwell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.Barwell@edinburgh.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 25 September 2025 10:39

**To:** Ross McKenzie <[Cllr.Ross.McKenzie@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Ross.McKenzie@edinburgh.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Calder Road Flags

Morning Ross

I've been passed your email regarding the flags on Calder Road.

Gavin Brown (cc'd in) has confirmed that we did remove a first set of flags from Calder Road on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September. Gavin is meeting with the senior manager responsible for the service today and arrangements will be made to ensure that the flags that are currently in place are removed as a priority.

Kind regards

Gareth

Gareth Barwell | Interim Corporate Director of Place | Place | Waverley Court, Level 2.6, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG | Tel: [REDACTED] (internal [REDACTED]) | email: [Gareth.Barwell@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.Barwell@edinburgh.gov.uk) |

