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Man Harasses Teen on Manchester Bus, Confronted by Mother

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On a recent journey on the 112 bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Moston, a 16-year-old girl endured harassment from a man who persistently bothered her and handed her a note containing his phone number. The incident, which left the teenager frightened, prompted her to contact her mother, who intervened by boarding the bus and confronting the man. This unsettling event underscores ongoing concerns about the safety of young people on public transport.

The incident occurred as the girl travelled on the 112 bus, operated by Stagecoach Manchester, a common route connecting Manchester city centre to the Moston area. According to reports, the man engaged the teenager in unwanted conversation and behaved inappropriately, causing her significant distress. Feeling unsafe, she promptly phoned her mother for assistance. The mother, upon receiving her daughter's call, acted swiftly, boarding the bus at a subsequent stop to address the situation directly.

Upon confronting the man, the mother challenged him about his actions towards her daughter. Initially, he denied any wrongdoing, claiming he had not interacted with the girl in the manner described. However, the mother, holding the note the man had given her daughter, dialled the phone number written on it. When the man's phone rang, it confirmed his involvement, exposing his false denial. This moment of accountability highlighted the mother's quick thinking and resolve to protect her child.

The confrontation took place in full view of other passengers, though specific details about additional witnesses or their reactions remain unreported. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) has not yet released an official statement regarding the incident, and it is unclear whether formal charges have been pursued. The event has nonetheless sparked renewed discussion about the vulnerability of young people, particularly teenage girls, when using public transport in urban areas like Manchester.

This incident follows a pattern of reported safety concerns on public transport in Greater Manchester. According to Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), efforts have been made to improve security, including increased CCTV coverage and the presence of transport staff on busy routes. Despite these measures, incidents like this highlight the challenges in ensuring consistent safety for all passengers, especially minors. In 2024, TfGM reported over 1,200 incidents of anti-social behaviour on buses across the region, though not all involved harassment of this nature.

The mother's decisive action in confronting the man reflects a broader sentiment among parents about the need to protect children in public spaces. The 112 bus route, which serves a diverse population and covers residential areas like Moston, is a vital link for many, including schoolchildren. However, this incident raises questions about whether current safety protocols are sufficient. Stagecoach Manchester encourages passengers to report suspicious behaviour to drivers or via their customer service channels, but no specific comment from the company on this case has been made public.

This troubling encounter serves as a stark reminder of the risks young people face in everyday settings. It also highlights the importance of vigilance and swift parental intervention in ensuring accountability. As Greater Manchester continues to address public transport safety, incidents like this fuel calls for stronger measures to protect vulnerable passengers, particularly teenagers, from harassment and intimidation while travelling.