

Katie Davies

Holiday photographer branded terror threat

King's Cross station staff order snapper not to take pictures

A TEACHER was stopped from taking holiday snaps at King's Cross station – in case he was a terrorist.

Murdoch Gabbay, 32, from Edinburgh, had been visiting London on a teaching conference and decided to snap the station's historical architecture from a platform.

But two members of staff banned him from using the camera claiming it was a terror threat.

The maths teacher said: "I was standing on the platform with two suitcases and a backpack taking photographs.

"Two members of staff came over and said they had been told to stop people taking photographs in case they were terrorists.

"I was just photographing the architecture and trying to catch people running for trains. I asked what if you had a camera phone and they said they would stop someone with one of those too.

"It freaked me out. I used to live in Israel and have taken pictures in stations there and been allowed to carry on.

"I never had any trouble at all but I am stopped at King's Cross. On the way home I was taking pictures out the windows of the train but felt I was looking

over my shoulder."

He added: "It is really worrying – we have a culture of fear and suspicion developing in this country and we can see it happening.

"This climate is making people behave like bullies. Everyone is suspecting everyone.

The station architecture dates back to 1852 and as one of London's largest stations is a hub for railway enthusiasts.

More than 40million people pass through King's Cross station each year, many stopping to get pictures next to the sign for platform 9¾, as seen in the Harry Potter films.

A Network Rail spokesman said everyone had to get permission to take photographs on its land.



Murdoch Gabbay was shocked when he was stopped from snapping King's Cross.

He said: "Our policy is anyone who wants to turn up in our stations to photograph needs permission.

"Enthusiasts who want to take

photos at a station need to register at the station reception with the manager. We would usually allow it but it is totally in the staff's

jurisdiction to tell people to stop if they don't want it.

"We work with the transport police and other police forces who may want to curtail photography at a station."

King's Cross-based photographer Angela Inglis has had exhibitions featuring the station and is due to release a book of photographs on the land later this year.

She said: "Our country needs to watch it because we are going too far. We are losing individual freedom from yet another area of our lives.

"This really is a climate of fear. We have to work on inclusion, not excluding people."

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Berry's up for Mayor

THE race for London Mayor is looking like a local battle with a Camden resident signing up to take on Cricklewood's Ken Livingstone.

Sian Berry from Kentish Town is the Green party candidate for the mayoral contest.

As well as facing former Camden councillor Mr Livingstone, she may also be up against Hampstead's Tom Conti who is considering a bid to become the Tory candidate.

Ms Berry, who is joint leader of the Green Party and narrowly missed out on winning a council seat in Kentish Town, said: "I am delighted, it is very exciting. We have so many good activists in London and two assembly members already. I am looking forward to taking on Ken Livingstone because there is such a lot I can get him on.

"He is getting worse and worse – now he is supporting developers in King's Cross and I am going to pull him up on that."

103 years old and still