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## ✉ Formal warning about bad conduct

apm-wa Allan Mustard

22h

NorthCrab,

This message is a formal warning to you in accordance with the [Etiquette/Process for Moderation - OpenStreetMap Wiki](#) (*viz.*) by a moderator of the Foundation channel appointed by the OpenStreetMap Foundation Board of Directors.

Your combative approach to communication in the community forum as attested by multiple community members[1][2][3][4][5], your unwarranted *ad hominem* attack of volunteer moderator warpath-peacock[6], and your insinuations of bad faith on the part of the Operations Working Group volunteers[7] violate the [Etiquette/Etiquette Guidelines - OpenStreetMap Wiki](#) as well as the [general rules for civilized behavior of the forum](#). I have admonished you once already in accordance with the Process for Moderation, and am now escalating the matter to a formal warning. Other community members have pointed out to you the inappropriate manner with which you communicate[1]-[5],and have pointed out that moderation to date (including the temporary closing of the thread) has been light.[8] In particular, warpath-peacock’s temporary closure of the thread is in full compliance with the intent of the Process for Moderation, to wit:

Proactive Moderation: Help OSM conversation channels provide new community members with a useful and durable introduction to the project by encouraging open and healthy dialogue, and discouraging breaches of OSM’s etiquette guidelines, as well as communicating the guidelines of conduct and codes of etiquette.

If you do not cease and desist from further violations of the Etiquette Guidelines, the general moderators will convene to consider what appropriate next measure should be applied to curb your bad conduct, again, in accordance with the Process for Moderation. Such measures can include

- \* A recommended one week break from the mailing list
- \* A temporary block of 24 hours to slow down or prevent direct participation by the individual (“mod flag” feature of Mailman)
- \* A temporary or permanent ban from the OSM talk@ and/or OSMF talk@ mailing lists

I point out for clarity that these guidelines, although written for the talk lists, were **extended to the community forum** by request of the forums governance team.

Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact the general moderators via this channel or by email to **talk-owner@openstreetmap.org**

You have the right to appeal this formal warning to the Board of Directors of the OpenStreetMap Foundation, in accordance with the Process for Moderation.

- [1] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon**
- [2] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon - #13 by pnorman**
- [3] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon - #21 by mtmail**
- [4] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon - #34 by mtmail**
- [5] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon - #37 by iandees**
- [6] **Positive Feedback & Complaint About Moderators**
- [7] **Why does OSMF Budget €25,000 on Amazon**
- [8] **Positive Feedback & Complaint About Moderators - #8 by Spatialia**
- [9] **Positive Feedback & Complaint About Moderators - #9 by CactiStaccingCrane**

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**NorthCrab****21h**

I believe this formal warning is invalid.

Based on the grounds provided by you (the first wiki link), it states:

As requested by the OSMF board, the LCCWG Subcommittee of volunteers further defined a process for moderation of the Etiquette Guidelines **that will apply to the talk and osmf-talk mailing lists.**

I analyzed the additional context **you provided**, and I could not find any information that would justify applying Etiquette Guidelines to the community forums.

I think the source of your confusion might be this line:

the moderators have also been asked at times to adjudicate alleged violations of the Etiquette Guidelines in other channels

This statement doesn't explicitly indicate that the moderators are officially permitted to apply the Etiquette Guidelines on the forums. While they have been asked or requested (by someone unknown) to do so, the validity of their actions is a separate topic. I would like to see a more explicit, official statement.

With that out of the way, let me respond:

I have not engaged in recent discussions on the mentioned mailing lists, so I believe this was sent in error. Otherwise, I request you to provide evidence of that. If you think otherwise, please let me know.

Thank you for your understanding and I appreciate your professionalism.

**apm-wa Allan Mustard****20h**[Skip to main content](#)

Please re-read this:

apm-wa:

I point out for clarity that these guidelines, although written for the talk lists, were **extended to the community forum** by request of the forums governance team.

Moderated spaces

### About the [talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:talk@openstreetmap.org) and [osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org) mailing lists

The persons listed on this page were **approved** by the OSMF board on 2022-05-23 to moderate the [talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:talk@openstreetmap.org) and the [osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org) mailing lists, as per the **Etiquette Guidelines**, following the **process for moderation**.

[talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:talk@openstreetmap.org) is the mailing list for all OpenStreetMap community members.

[osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org](mailto:osmf-talk@openstreetmap.org) is the mailing list for OpenStreetMap Foundation members. Prior to the approval of the moderators, the osmf-talk mailing list was moderated by the **Membership Working Group** (MWG).

### The “general”, “general:tagging”, and “foundation” channels on [community.openstreetmap.org](https://community.openstreetmap.org)

On November 2022 the self-appointed **@forums-governance team on [community.openstreetmap.org](https://community.openstreetmap.org)** reached out to the team to see whether its members would be interested in becoming moderators on the Discourse forum at [community.openstreetmap.org](https://community.openstreetmap.org). The moderators team voted and unanimously agreed. The following channels on [community.openstreetmap.org](https://community.openstreetmap.org) are currently moderated by the team: “**general**”, “**general:tagging**”, and “**foundation**”. By special request, the moderators have also been asked at times to adjudicate alleged violations of the

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Etiquette Guidelines in other channels, case by case.

**apm-wa Allan Mustard**

**20h**

Further,

If a community does not adopt its own guidelines, the OSM Etiquette Guidelines will apply by default, please make sure you take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with them before participating.

, which can be found here;  
<https://community.openstreetmap.org/faq>

**apm-wa Allan Mustard**

**20h**

If you continue to push back, you will be sanctioned. This is your final warning.

Invited [@forums-governance](#) 20 hours ago

**NorthCrab**

**10h**

Let me number the discussion topics to make tracking them easier.

## 1. Justification

apm-wa:

If you continue to push back, you will be sanctioned. This is your final warning.

Please refrain from startling me in that manner. I am striving to engage in an open discussion, not to counter your ideas. Due to points I previously highlighted, I genuinely held the belief that this

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cautionary statement lacked validity. It's important that everyone retains the ability to voice their concerns without being suppressed.

Now that you've presented me with another rationale for your actions - [FAQ - OpenStreetMap Community Forum](#) - I find the application of Etiquette Guidelines in this context to be valid. Nevertheless, the initial message did not include this information, and my assertion of its absence was justified.

## 2. Reasoning

I am perplexed as to why you decided to issue a formal warning to me. The evidence you mentioned [1-5] has already been addressed by me, and I have taken active measures to refrain from further violations. For example,

apm-wa:

I have admonished you once already in accordance with the Process for Moderation, and am now escalating the matter to a formal warning

Could you please provide any evidence that would indicate continuous violations of the guidelines by me, following your post [here](#)? I'm having trouble comprehending the rationale behind "and am now escalating the matter." I believe I have already recognized my mistake, corrected myself, and yet you continue to pursue me.

Once more, I want to clarify that my intention is not to resist. I am genuinely seeking an open and respectful discussion. However, I do hold valid concerns regarding the actions you are taking in this matter.