

GLASGOW'S CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR BUSKERS & STREET PERFORMERS



Welcome to Glasgow City Centre where street performing (busking) is a time honoured art form that adds colour and vibrancy to our public spaces. Whenever a busker sets out to perform on a street, they join an existing community which can also include street traders, shops, businesses, residents, other members of the public, and other buskers. It is therefore important that use of shared public space promotes positive and neighbourly relations between users. However, with so much activity taking place within an already busy city centre, issues can arise.

Experience has shown that the following activity is likely to draw complaints:

- **PERFORMING IN THE SAME LOCATION FOR TOO LONG (I.E LONGER THAN 2 HOURS)**
- **PERFORMANCE OF POOR QUALITY AND / OR REPETITION OF LIMITED REPERTOIRE**
- **PERFORMING CLOSE TO RESIDENTIAL AREAS**
- **PERFORMING TOO LOUDLY WITH AMPLIFICATION**
- **CAUSING OBSTRUCTION / CROWDS BLOCKING STREETS OR SHOP ENTRANCES**
- **RESIDENT BUSINESSES PROVIDING SENSITIVE PUBLIC SERVICES (SUCH AS FAMILY BEREAVEMENT)**

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The following good behaviour is advised to enable buskers to perform without drawing complaints from other users of the shared public space:

- Keep volume at a reasonable level – music should not be heard over 30 metres away
- Give pitches a break after a reasonable time – consider pitch sharing
- Be mindful of other buskers - avoid playing within 50 metres of each other
- Have a varied and good quality repertoire – avoid playing the same series of songs
- Keep any crowds controlled – avoid obstructing public access and shop entrances
- Avoid performing close to phone boxes, cash machines and churches
- Respect and engage with neighbouring businesses, residents and fellow buskers

Street performers may also face police action including the confiscation of equipment and or prosecution if they:

- Sell CDs or other merchandise without a street traders licence
- Perform after 9pm with a loudspeaker / amplifier
- Ignore requests by Police Scotland to reduce volumes and / or move on
- Wilfully obstruct the passage of pedestrians

If you have any issues please contact:

Police Scotland (Non Emergency) 101

Glasgow City Council: citycentreissues@glasgow.gov.uk

City Centre Response Team - 0141 276 7400

