

Aberdeen City Centre

Busker Code of Conduct Proposal Outline

Purpose

Our City Centre is a location where people live, work and visit. Busking enhances the cultural vibrancy of our city and provides a platform for artists to share their talents with the public. This code of conduct aims to promote a harmonious and respectful busking environment for all in Aberdeen City Centre.

1. Locations and Rotations

- To ensure fairness, buskers are encouraged to rotate their performance locations to allow others a chance to busk in popular spots while taking into account the needs of resident and businesses. A single act should not retain the same position for more than 2 hours.
- The following locations have been designated as Busking Zones (subject to normal availability) to allow clear areas for busking to take place:
 - i. St Nicholas Square – suitable for 1 Act
 - ii. School Hill, Outside St Nicolas Centre – suitable for 1 Act
 - iii. Union Steet outside Trintiy Centre – suitable for 1 Act
 - iv. George Steet outside Bon Accord Centre – suitable for 1 Act
 - v. Union Terrace Gardens – suitable for 2 Acts**
 - vi. Belmont Steet – suitable for 2 Acts**
 - vii. Guild Street – Suitable for 1 Acts**
 - viii. Castlegate – Suitable for 1 Act**

2. Use of Public Space

- Buskers should leave street furniture and seating free for other city centre users.
- Pedestrian access to pavements buildings, transport or emergency services should be kept clear.
- All city centre users should respect public space as one shared by people who live, work and visit – and who choose to busk there observing the code.

3. Performance

- Busking is permitted between 10am and 8pm Monday – Sunday. **(revised to Sunday – Thursday 10am – 8pm and Friday – Saturday 10am – 9pm.)**
- Play at a considerate volume so passers-by can hear but nearby businesses and residents are not disturbed. As a guide, levels should not be so loud that they can be

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plainly heard at a distance of 50m (164ft) – approximately the width of a football pitch.

- Acts must not include hate speech, offensive content, or any material that promotes discrimination, harassment, or violence.

4. Safety and Cleanliness

- Performance areas should be kept clean and free from litter.
- Buskers should ensure the safety of their audience and their own safety – for example, avoiding creating trip hazards from cables or placing equipment in a precarious position

5. Engagement

- Acts should be willing to fully cooperate with Aberdeen City Council (including City Wardens) and Police Scotland in respect of any advice, concerns or complaints regarding their act. You may be asked to stop performing or move to another location.

Under section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Police Scotland can request for buskers to stop performing where their performance is disturbing others. In the event of non-compliance, the matter may be referred to the Procurator Fiscal and equipment seized.

Sections marked in bold are to indicated changes that have been made as a result of the public consultation.