

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



Street performing (busking) is a time-honoured art form that adds to the attractiveness and colour of the City of Glasgow. Performers can help to create an enhanced atmosphere and provide pleasure to many people, both local and visitors.

However, for those living or working in the city, busking can become intrusive or annoying and may lead to nuisance being caused.

Strathclyde Police have powers under Section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to request buskers to stop such activity. If this request is not complied with the matter may be referred to the Procurator Fiscal and the busker's equipment seized.

Strathclyde Police are able to take legal action to abate the nuisance and prohibit its recurrence; this may include the seizure of musical instruments.

In addition a loudspeaker in a road or street shall not be operated

- (a) between the hours of 9 pm and 8 am the following morning, for any purpose;
- (b) At any other time, for the purpose of advertising any entertainment, trade or business;

Officers from Environmental Health & Trading Standards Division within Land & Environmental Services can also take action under the terms of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

What you should do if you are being disturbed by buskers

If you find you are being disturbed by buskers, either outside your place of work or where you live, you should firstly approach the busker and explain politely that you are being troubled by noise. You may find this difficult, but often people are unaware of the problem they are causing. Most buskers will be glad to do what they can to reduce the noise level they are generating.

Should the problem persist, in the first instance please report the noise nuisance to Strathclyde Police on **0141-532-3000**,

or alternatively contact the Environmental Health & Trading Standards Division within Land & Environmental Services on **0845 270 1558**, or email us for advice at **citycentreissues@glasgow.gov.uk**



The Busker's Code

This code has been drawn up to set a standard which, if complied with, will ensure that busking contributes to a vibrant street atmosphere.



1. Contributions must not be solicited. This is begging and you could be arrested or prosecuted if you do.
2. If requested to reduce the volume of music you should try to do so as far as possible by reducing the volume of amplified music, or playing quieter tunes.
3. The entertainment should cease before 9pm.
4. Avoid sites near to public telephone boxes, post boxes or doorways as this will make it difficult for these to be used properly.
5. Music or voice shall not be amplified to a level or be so loud that either can be clearly heard at a distance of 30 metres. Nor can amplified music be at a level that interferes with the ability of office or shop workers to conduct their business.
6. Move on to another pitch which is at least 50 metres away after one hour – this will help prevent complaints from local shopkeepers. Not everybody's taste in music is the same and most people do not want to hear the same style of music at the same place all day every day.
7. Be aware that certain areas require silence like hospital zones, around churches, funeral homes, cemeteries, and transport terminals where announcements need to be heard. Such areas are not suitable for busking.
8. Do not set up your pitch within 50 metres of another busker
9. No sale of any merchandise will be allowed
10. Don't obstruct the flow of pedestrians
11. Don't obstruct the pavements or precincts with your equipment
12. If you are asked by Strathclyde Police to stop performing, you must stop immediately and move on. If you don't, you could be charged and you risk any equipment being seized.