

Responsible Busking Code of Conduct

Dundee City Council recognises the vibrancy to a City Centre that buskers and other street entertainers can bring but we do have a code of conduct that we ask you to adhere to.

The code was written to prevent busking from:

- becoming intrusive and an annoyance to people (usually by loud, continuous or repetitive noise)
- obstructing pedestrians, shop keepers and City Centre residents

Under section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Police Scotland can ask buskers to stop performing where their performance is disturbing others. If you do not comply, the matter may be referred to the Procurator Fiscal, and your equipment seized.

The code of conduct

1. Busking is only permitted between 10am and 6pm (Site No 4* no busking until 12.30pm on a Sunday). Noise (music, instrument or voice) should not be so loud that it can be plainly heard at a distance of 50m. **Please don't use amplifiers unless permission has been granted by Dundee City Council.**
2. Drumming should only be included as a minor part of the act.
3. Dundee City Centre has four designated busking zones, (no busking is permitted in the area of the Dragon, High Street):
 - 1 Boots Corner
 - 2 Murraygate (outside Marks and Spencer)
 - 3 outside Wellgate
 - 4* Penguins at City Churches.

Only one performer or act may play in each zone at any one time.
4. An entertainer/act should not perform for longer than one hour in any zone location, and should not perform again at that location for three hours.
5. An entertainer should not obstruct free passage of pedestrians or vehicles on the highway (including pavements and pedestrianised areas), or allow an audience to do so. Access to shops, cycle-stands and bus-stops should be kept clear.
6. Use should not be made of street furniture such as lamp-posts, seats and bins.
7. No sign inviting payment may be displayed nor are you permitted to sell any merchandise including CDs and DVDs.
8. Proper use of public telephones should not be prevented, either because of noise or obstruction.
9. An entertainer should immediately stop performing when requested to do so by a police officer or council official.
10. The appearance and quality of an act should demonstrate a positive intention to entertain passers-by. If you try to solicit money through sympathy, you will be asked to stop busking/performing.

City Centre Ambassadors and Police Scotland monitor the City Centre throughout the day and will challenge any buskers who are found to be outwith the designated busking zones or flouting the code of conduct in any way.

* Site No 4 is being trialled until December 2023 and will be monitored for any breaches and can be removed at anytime. If it works well then it may continue in 2024 and beyond.

Should you wish to discuss the Busking Code of Conduct please contact:

Gaynor Sullivan, City Centre Manager, Dundee City Council
email: citycentre@dundee.gov.uk

