

Voluntary Busking Guidelines

What is Busking?

Busking and street entertainment are an integral part of Cardiff's City Centre Experience. They create a pleasant and vibrant atmosphere for everyone who visits the city.

Buskers are sharing the streets and open spaces with everyone else who lives, works, trades and takes their leisure in the city centre. It is important if busking is to thrive in the city centre it does so in a way that respects residents, businesses and other performers.

Voluntary Busking Guidelines

These Voluntary Busking Guidelines looks to establish a trial arrangement to support a positive relationship between performers and their surrounding environment, guidance that reflects residents, businesses and musicians needs, supporting performance opportunities for talent in the city.

Why do we need guidelines?

We acknowledge that most complaints about busking apply to a small number of performers and usually relate to volume, location, repetitive performances or obstruction. These guidelines aim to reduce the potential for conflict and to support a culture of community, compromise, consideration for others and negotiation.

Using the Guidelines

These guidelines have been produced by Cardiff Council in consultation with South Wales Police, local businesses, the Cardiff busking community, The Keep Streets Live network and The Musician's Union and Equity.

The guidelines will be used to communicate good behaviour in the city centre and will be used on a trial basis during which time engagement with buskers, residents and businesses will take place to consider the effectiveness of the guidelines.

Voluntary Busking Guidelines

- i. Select your pitch carefully to respect local residents and businesses and consider the impact of your performance on those who live and work nearby.
- ii. Also be respectful of places of worship, performance spaces and areas where official ceremonies take place. Any performances should not take place near these areas when activity is taking place.
- iii. Street performance and busking should not exceed a maximum of 90 minutes at a pitch. Performers should be prepared to move after this time period and not return to the same pitch.
- iv. Performance times for buskers will operate from 10am to 7pm.
- v. Amplification levels should only be slightly above ambient street levels. As a guide, if amplified music can be heard significantly above other noises more than 20 metres away it is too loud.
- vi. Keep your level in keeping with the surroundings, for example at certain times when streets are quieter you should adjust your volumes to a level where you can still be heard but are not overpowering for other city centre users.
- vii. Backing tracks must be at a level below the lead instrument or vocal.
- viii. Buskers should not repeat the same material during any pitch tenure.
- ix. Members of the public and business owners should be courteous and wait for gaps in the performance before approaching buskers to raise issues. Buskers should also exhibit politeness in response.
- x. Pitches must be cleared after use, taking care to dispose of any items used for the purposes of your performance or consumed between sets.
- xi. Please be mindful of all those using the city centre when busking.

Your agreement to maintain the community spirit and consideration of others within the City Centre is appreciated and vital to the cohesive existence of residents and visitors to Cardiff.

Where this fails to contribute to ensure the welfare of others and behaviour that falls outside of these guidelines, there is legislation that will allow where reasonable, proportionate and justified, positive action to be taken. This will include the removal from the City Centre and the potential for action taken under the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act 2014.