

Buskers and Street Entertainers in Newcastle City Centre Code of Conduct

Newcastle has always been a popular place for busking. There are plenty of pitches and many people are happy to listen to street performers. The council is happy to have buskers because they add to the vibrancy of the streets. However, complaints can arise if the volume, duration and frequency of the noise is excessive for residents or local businesses.



The Legal Position. Noise is a major issue and the Council shows considerable tolerance to performers. Newcastle City Council does not issue licences or permits for busking and street entertainment, but welcomes performers who are prepared to abide by this Code of Conduct. The Council have an obligation to observe the Law regarding noise, obstruction and anti-social behaviour.

Anyone disturbed by loud, continued or repeated singing or playing of musical instruments may ask a busker to stop. Refusal to do so is an offence against local byelaws (Good Rule and Government of the City) and may result in prosecution and confiscation of equipment in most severe cases.

The attached locations have been identified as being the most appropriate places in the City Centre, for busking and entertaining. You should therefore confine your performances only to these places.



Do's & Don'ts



Please Do :

- 1. Time** Entertainment is permitted between 09:00 and 18:00 hours.
- 2. Perform** Busk at a considerate volume so passers-by can hear you but adjacent businesses and residents are not disturbed by your activity. The City Council will only tolerate responsible use of amplification. If abused, equipment can be confiscated. Amplifiers may only be used at a very low level. The sound level for any busker at 20 metres or more should not be audible above the background noise level nor be a nuisance to nearby businesses or residents. You will need to assess this if you intend to perform.
- 3. Move** An entertainer can perform at a pitch for up to one hour only (see pitches overleaf) and not return to the same street for two hours. Noisy entertainers (e.g. drums, bagpipes, bands or any amplified acts) may only perform for up to 30 minutes at a time.
- 4. Stop** **Busking and entertainment will need to stop if requested by the Police, NE1 Street Ranger or a City Council Officer at any time.**



Please Don't:

- 5. Location** You must not stand, sit, or spread out your equipment so as to cause an obstruction of the highway (footpath), entrances or exits to shops and other premises.
- 6. Collecting** You must not actively collect money, but you may have a receptacle (box, hat or musical instrument case) into which you can accept donations. You are not allowed to purport to collect for charitable or other purposes. This would be a 'street collection' requiring a permit from the City Council.
- 7. Selling** The selling of any merchandise such as tapes, CD's and T-shirts is strictly prohibited. This is an offence for which you could be prosecuted.
- 8. Performance** Entertainers should not cause alarm, distress or offence or perform in a manner which may be considered dangerous to

them or the general public. Fire eaters are not allowed to perform under this Code.

Busking Locations in Newcastle City Centre

- 1. Northumberland Street (North End)**
Centre of street between TUI Holidays and Skipton Building Society
- 2. Northumberland Street (Middle)**
Centre of street entrance to Eldon Square Shopping Centre and McDonald's
- 3. Northumberland Street (South End).**
Centre of street underneath the herald, adjacent to Monument Mall Shopping Centre and the Information Point
- 4. Monument**
Adjacent to entrance to the Metro Station on Grey Street
- 5. Grainger Street**
Centre of street at the pavement feature
- 6. Bigg Market**
Circular paving feature
- 7. Millennium Bridge**
Adjacent to railings



Useful contacts:

Food Safety, Planning & Events
City Operations, Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services

Tel: (0191) 278 7878

Busking Locations

