

Busking in Lincoln

What is busking?

Busking refers to the performance of music, singing, dancing, or other forms of entertainment in public spaces, with the intention of receiving tips and donations from members of the public.

What's wrong with busking?

There is nothing wrong with busking, it can contribute to a lively and interesting atmosphere, provided it is conducted in a responsible manner that avoids creating disturbances or obstructions for the public.

Why have a code of conduct?

In Lincoln, a code of conduct for buskers has been developed by the City of Lincoln Council, Lincolnshire Police, and Lincoln Business Improvement Group (Lincoln BIG). All performers engaging in busking within the city are required to adhere to this code of conduct.

Busking can become intrusive and annoying for people who live, work or visit Lincoln, especially in the city centre. Usually this is because of loud, continuous or repetitive noise. For shoppers, deliveries and the emergency services, there is also the possibility of the highway being obstructed.

What if the code of conduct is not complied with?

If buskers are causing a noise nuisance, the council may be able to take enforcement action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The police also have powers where if they consider a busker to be a public nuisance, obstruction or antisocial behaviour is being caused.

Code of Conduct

- 1. Children under the age of 14 years of age are not permitted to busk.**
- 2. Entertainers should limit the length and volume of their performance.** Please have consideration for the people who live, work and visit the locality. See point 5.
- 3. Any noise related to the performance (for example music or voice) should not be so loud that it can be plainly heard beyond the immediate audience.** Drumming should only be included as a minor part of the act.
- 4. We request that each performance should last no longer than 20 minutes with a break of at least 30 minutes thereafter.**
- 5. Entertainers should not locate within earshot of another entertainer who is already performing.** Please be aware that individual buildings or areas may/will be sensitive at certain times of the day or year.
- 6. Entertainers 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 areas (for example shop entrances, bus stops) should be kept clear.
- 7. Structures (such as gazebos) must not be used on any highway.**
- 8. Entertainers must not make use of any street furniture.** For example, lamp posts, benches and bins.
- 9. No signs inviting payment should be displayed.** If you wish to sell copies of your musical performance as ancillary to busking, you will require a street trading license from the City of Lincoln Council.
- 10. All entertainers are advised to obtain Public Liability Insurance.**
- 11. The appearance and quality of an act or performance should demonstrate a positive intention to entertain passersby, not solicit money through sympathy.**
- 12. Entertainers should immediately stop performing when asked to do so by a police officer, PCSO, City of Lincoln Council official, Lincolnshire County Council official or Lincoln BIG street warden.**
- 13. Entertainers who continue to cause a nuisance to the local area and/or businesses may have enforcement taken against them.**