

Advice for buskers in Edinburgh



**It is legal to busk on any Public Highway in Scotland.
No license or permit is required.**

The signs posted by Edinburgh City Council restricting/prohibiting busking have no basis in law and you are not obliged to follow their requests. Equally the 'Yellow Card' warnings have no legal standing and it is your right to both decline the card and to give any details if you are not committing a criminal offence.

Please be aware of your surroundings and perform appropriately as regards volume, available space, taking breaks or changing location. Remember that although street performance is entirely lawful, laws on obstruction, noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour still apply.

Using an amplifier/loudspeaker after 9pm IS an offence and you can be prosecuted if you do not desist when asked.

The 1980 Civic Governance Act states that a busker must be giving 'reasonable cause for complaint' to be moved on, so you should ask exactly what is unreasonable about your performance. If you are given a GENUINE explanation as to why your performance is not reasonable you should adapt it, or if necessary, move elsewhere.

We advise you to film any interaction with Police or other officers 'for the public record and for the protection of all parties involved'. The Association of Chief Police Officers makes it clear that filming in a public place is completely lawful.

The Grassmarket and Rose Street are particularly sensitive areas and there is a possibility that you may be challenged by residents. We recommend that you try and empathise by offering to modify your performance, but reiterate that you are doing nothing unlawful.

Please remain calm and courteous in all encounters.

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