

## WINCHESTER BUSKERS CODE

Buskers and other forms of street entertainment are a regular part of the street scene when visiting the historic city of Winchester. They can help to create a colourful and cheerful atmosphere giving great delight to residents and visitors alike.

However, for those living or working in the city centre, busking can become intrusive or annoying and may lead to nuisance, in which case Environmental Health Services may well receive complaints about the noise and the Police may take action under local bye-laws.

This leaflet describes the legal controls over busking and provides some guidance concerning ways of avoiding noise disturbance from this form of entertainment.



## THE LAW

Under the provisions of the Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993, noise from equipment used in the streets can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance by the City Council, who have powers to take action against those who create or allow the nuisance to happen.

"Equipment" includes amplified musical instruments and the Act can apply if a busker is singing with any form of amplification system. Under Winchester City Council bye-laws buskers may be required to stop busking if requested to do so by occupants of buildings (or by a police officer acting on their behalf) - and prosecuted if they do not comply.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

If you find you are being disturbed by buskers, either outside your place of work or where you live, contact the Council. The Police may also, on receiving your complaint, take action under the bye-laws.

The address and telephone number of the Police and the Council are given on the back of this leaflet.

## BUSKERS CODE

If you are a busker in the Winchester City centre adopt the following code: -

- **Keep the volume at a reasonable level.**
- **Don't obstruct the flow of pedestrians. You could be arrested/prosecuted if you do.**

Remember crowds can cause this problem when gathering to listen or watch.

- **Move on to another pitch after an hour, which will help to prevent complaints from local shopkeepers.**
- **Move on, or stop if required to do so by a Police Officer. You may be prosecuted if you do not, under the bye-laws.**
- **Don't make use of street furniture such as lamp posts, public seats etc. for your performance.**
- **Avoid sites near to public telephone boxes, post boxes or doorways, as this will make it difficult for these to be used properly.**
- **No selling is permitted by buskers.**
- **Contributions must not be solicited. This is begging and you could be arrested/prosecuted if you do.**

## CONTACT

### WINCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Environmental Protection Team

Environmental Health Services

City Offices,  
Colebrook Street,  
Winchester,  
SO23 9LJ

Tel: - (01962) 840222

### WINCHESTER POLICE

Tel: - 0845 045 45 45



## FURTHER INFORMATION

*If you require any further advice or information - please do not hesitate to contact us.*



#### **By Post**

Environmental Health Services  
Winchester City Council  
City Offices  
Colebrook Street  
Winchester  
SO23 9LJ



#### **By Telephone**

01962 840222



#### **By Fax**

01962 840586



#### **By E Mail**

[environment@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:environment@winchester.gov.uk)



#### **Or visit our Website**

<http://www.winchester.gov.uk>

If you know someone who would like this information in another format, please telephone: 01962 848367



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Environmental Health Services



**Winchester**  
City Council