

Sinead Johnstone  
Environment Section  
Galway City Council  
City Hall  
College Road  
Galway  
Email: [environment.section@galwaycity.ie](mailto:environment.section@galwaycity.ie)  
Friday 27 March 2015

**SUBMISSION TO  
'A REVIEW OF BUSKING/STREET PERFORMANCE IN GALWAY CITY'**



For many years, particularly with the involvement of Galway Chamber as a partner in Galway Business Watch, it has been our belief that there must be some regulation around the issue of Busking on our streets.

As a Chamber of Commerce and representing our business members, we are very clear that we are not against busking per se, what we object to is extremely loud, amplified, repetitive 'noise'.

Other areas of concern are the obstruction of premises blocking the thoroughfare thus impacting business as well as late night busking disturbing residents

We welcome the opportunity that 'A REVIEW OF BUSKING/STREET PERFORMANCE IN GALWAY CITY' gives us to make our views known and to be part of the process to address the matter in an inclusive manner. We absolutely believe that consultation must involve all parties prior to the enactment of such bye-laws that may be needed.

While the existing bye-laws on street performance, introduced in 2011 restricted addressed issues with some late night performances they did not address the ongoing problems regarding

- Noise nuisance as a result of amplification or drum kits
- Noise nuisance as a result of number of performers trying to compete with each other
- Repetitive nature of music repertoire
- Blocking of business premises and main thoroughfare as a result of performances

Therefore we welcome this further effort to regulate busking in a managed way, to make street performing a more positive experience for all and to mitigate the current problems while being cognizant of the importance of street performance and buskers to Galway City's vibrancy, culture and attraction as a destination

Under the discussion criteria we would like to add the following:

*Extent of area of application*

We would suggest that the area described for Purple Flag purposes should be considered

*Current noise environment*

We suggest that the noise environment both with and without amplification be monitored by Council with expert opinion involved to either **regulate or eliminate** amplification prior to any further bye-law enactment

*Health & Safety re certain types of performance*

There are concerns re certain acts involving flammables and 'roping off street areas' which can impede emergency vehicles etc.

Maeve Joyce

General Manager  
Galway Chamber