

Appendix 4 – Enforcement activity for existing PSPO

When creating the City Centre PSPO, the intention was that it would help modify behaviours to ensure that the City Centre is a welcoming environment for visitors to the City and for retailers and those that work and reside in the City Centre.

The enforcement framework was created with the intention of reminding people of what behaviour is considered reasonable, but then allows officers to take appropriate measures depending on the nature of the breach encountered.

The City Centre PSPO is primarily an informed order, i.e. people are informed if their behaviour is unacceptable and offered the chance to modify or stop their behaviour to conform. Should they not do so they will be issued with a breach notice.

The breach notice allows the matter to be resolved without the escalation that may otherwise occur if someone is issued immediately with a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) It also allows for the matter to be reviewed and appropriate measures taken to deal with the situation.

If the person breaching is under 18 we can decide on a disposal that may involve an activity that benefits the wider community. For adults, we may decide to issue a formal caution, a FPN, or if the breach is severe or repeated we may summons people to court.

When dealing with people that are begging, first and foremost we recognise their vulnerabilities and refer them to services that may allow them to better address the underlying issues that may cause them to beg. We know from our extensive knowledge of the services available in the City there are very few circumstances that should require someone to beg in order to find food or accommodation.

Only where someone is EXTREMELY persistent in their actions of begging in the City Centre would we consider further action that may result in them being taken to court, usually after the issuing of a FPN. We have to consider this option as we owe a duty of care to those that feel harassed in the City Centre by some beggars and also businesses that report that the actions of beggars are detrimental to their operations.

We never take people to court for begging with the intention of requesting a fine or similar, it is to ask the court to mandate the individual to engage with support agencies, often for addiction issues and in very serious cases we may request that an individual is prevented from entering certain defined areas.

It should be noted that the Coronavirus pandemic took place shortly after the creation of this order. Social distancing guidelines issue in relation to this meant that officers rarely engaged with members of the public unless the issue was significant. Normal interactions with the public did not resume until some way through 2022.

Initiatives to get people into accommodation and similar as well as reduced footfall in the City Centre mean that issuing such data for these years would not serve any purpose for

comparison purposes, both in terms of enforcement activity and persons in the City Centre and as such they have been omitted

We also had the City of Culture within the City and as such matters related to street entertainment and busking were revised and relaxed to reflect the nature of this event.

It should be noted this information is related to behaviours covered by the City Centre PSPO only. Matters such as public drinking of alcohol and other measures are included in other PSPO's in operation across the City as a whole, not just the City Centre.

Buskers	Breach notices issued	Fixed Penalty Notices	Prosecutions
2020 (1 st April onwards)	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	5	0	0
2023 (to 1 st April)	2	0	0

Beggars	Breach notices issued	Fixed Penalty Notices	Prosecutions
2020 (1 st April onwards)	n/a	n/a	n/a
2021	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022	103	2	0
2023 (to 1 st April)	71	1	0

Cycling			
2023 (to 1 st April)	14	0	0

For all other activities listed in the City Centre PSPO there has been no significant formal enforcement activity. It should be noted that all informal interactions by enforcement officers are not recorded, such as when people may be told their behaviour is unacceptable but they modify or stop their behaviour.