

Street Entertainment

Consultation on proposed Public Spaces Protection Order

Report Appendices

Report written July 2018

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
**KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA**

Appendix One: Emails Received

Emails received

This section of the report contains details of all emails received in response to the consultation. Names and contact details have been removed in order to comply with Data Protection.

Email 1:

-----Original Message-----

From: [Contact Details removed]

Sent: 08 June 2018 18:22

To: Consultation Team: CP-Proj&Ptms: RBKC <ConsultationTeam@rbkc.gov.uk

Subject: Consultation Team on commercial busking,

Our goal is to ensure that street entertainment doesn't impact negatively on the quality of life of residents.

This brings out the rant in me. RBKC does not strike me as culturally structured to deal with the intolerable degradation of HSK.

A Consultation team will be best served by having a named individual sign the letter. Street entertainment does impact on my life but I cannot see that you wish to put the two competing groups as if they were of equal importance. The Circle line is plagued by I am informed by a BTP officer, Romanians who are organised by a Gang-master to beg by making a very loud noise in a confined space called a railway carriage. That lasts about 20-30 seconds. If BTP bring them in they are cautioned. I find the noise destructive and it makes me change mood to feat immediately. What effort if any is made to arrest for vagrancy offences? If you elevate beggars' interests in getting money from the streets by amplified noise you are encouraging the degrading of my environment and community. HSK is degraded by the absence of policing-or its acquiescence. If BTP do have a laissez faire attitude to this then it will get worse.

I do not approve of you tolerating amplified music in HSK and more than on the Circle Line. When the new wing of the V&A opened several buskers with amplified music converged onto Exhibition Rd.

I do not know the composition of the RBKC consultation team Might have the identity of your group? I am critical of the team of RBKC which was formed to protect and engender awareness in the elderly. The RBKC did not have an answer to what to do about a particular problem-again involving policing. Do you have a representative of the police and BTP on the Consultation Team? But for the Kensington Society I would not know of the existence of this Team. I think that Kensington Society is much under recognised as a link between RBKC and residents. Can you print your minutes of meetings on line for me to read the agenda and views please?

I know that this could be expressed so much more diplomatically. I have been soured by the day at the church in KP Road in March.

best wishes,

[Name removed]

Appendix One: Emails Received

Email 2:

**FROM THE EARL'S COURT SQUARE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION IN
RESPONSE TO RBKC STREET ENTERTAINMENT CONSULTATION**

11TH June 2018

[Name removed]

Please see below comments from members of the Executive Committee of the Earl's Court Square Residents' Association. I have also sent your survey out to our Members and asked them to respond by Friday 6 July.

I support the comments from the Committee but would like to add that there have been problems for local residents (Earl's Court Gardens) where the street entertainers use amplifiers, which can be clearly heard by residents in their homes. This is unacceptable and should be controlled. It is hoped that the introduction of a PSPO would facilitate this.

We have not completed the survey but hope the comments from ECSRA will be addressed when this consultation is considered.

[Name removed]

Earl's Court Square Residents' Association.
A Gold Standard RA awarded by RBKC

[Contact details removed]

[Name removed]

I think that there should be some control, especially in respect to the use of amplified entertainment.

[Name removed]

I believe it is quiet enjoyable for all and good encouragement / means of earning for the buskers, as long as it is in a controlled manner....for which some form of licensing or permit from the council is essential.

It is also essential to prevent any undercover criminal/unlawful activity - drugs/pick pocketing etc... and to be mindful of health and safety concerns...overcrowding...personal safety etc... and hence designated areas carefully chosen/authorised, inside or outside the underground station area are essential. Noise pollution can be a problem, but as long as this happens in carefully selected, designated areas only, it should be fine.

I have noticed that young or old and tourists and most of us enjoy it. I myself quite enjoy them singing or playing music in whichever mood I may be...especially on a dull dreary day, it cheers me up.

It should be supported but controlled by the council. PSPO is essential but it should be reasonable and not draconian.

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[Name removed]

Lovely to have this type of entertainment by the tube stations, they are already noisy places so local residents should not be too impacted;

I would encourage a daily licence for each "act". These to be free of charge or for a nominal amount. These licences should be available to fill online on the Council's website. Potentially, there could be a webpage dedicated to "street talent", with a page where each artist can give a brief description of themselves and the day and location where they will be playing;

It would be lovely, for those who have obtained this licence, to have a sign they can show (on the floor next to where they collect the money) to say something along these lines: "RBKC proudly supports street talent". That way, people would know who they are, giving money to (sort of). These would be vetted artists and not drug users looking for their next fix money.

[Name removed]

Like what [REDACTED] has said above very much.

[Name removed]

I definitely appreciate musicians on the street, it makes my day, although I am particularly grateful when I hear musicians performing in stations on the underground. I am on the tube all the time, as I don't use a car in London I am very glad to have heard lovely music over the years on commutes.

I have 3 thoughts to add

1) Tube exits or any busy noisy streets, just because they are noisy already, should not be seen as performance zones, but as residential zones first. Just to put music there because it's noisy already isn't exactly fair to anyone living above or around those areas. So it needs to be carefully licensed. I expect the council controls it already, to some degree.

2) We should listen to any of our residents who live near a tube exit, (or near anywhere they have street music, even if not a tube exit) rather than only give comments from the zone of a quieter garden square area, where music is already regulated by a garden committee.

(Whereas on Earls Court Road, or other popular spots with high footfall, people just try to turn up and play, for however long or wherever they choose, so this is where problems start. And even if allowed and licenced, it needs to be balanced, in a way respectful to residents)

3) I recall from a Noise and Nuisance workshop I attended years ago, that this department was saying residents experiencing negative impact from busking and street performance is a real problem in the borough. It must be hard to get the balance right between providing music and entertainment and supporting musicians but keeping locals within 24/7 ear range from losing their sanity! It might be helpful to say we support that new order if it helps residents feel they are getting a better service from their Borough?

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[Name removed]

Had a read, they have said everything I would have said.

What I do know is that the residents of Earl's Court Gardens DO have an issue with the noise, so we can expect to see a different approach to ours. I think they will want to see at least a cut off time of 10:30 if not an outright ban. If they go for a cut off time, they'll probably insist on no amplification.

I do not know what the flats above Barclays / old NatWest or the ones above Byron / NHS may have said about the buskers. I do not even know which if any R.A. they may come under, I'll ask just to know.

Email 3:

From: [Contact details removed]

Sent: 27 June 2018 12:26

To: [Contact details removed]

cc: [Contact details removed]

Subject: Re: [info] Street Entertainment Consultation

Hi,

I don't think it would be right for us to answer your questionnaire as a resident, but I've attached a couple of people to this email that might be interested in knowing what's coming up.

Unfortunately, there are a couple of flaws in the survey that don't make it entirely unbiased. I've broken it down:

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You need to be asking *what kind of* negative impact buskers have. Is a "highway obstruction" a minor bother you have to walk around, or something that's dangerous because it forces you into the road? Is "too loud" a mild distraction on your evening commute home, or something keeping you up at night?

You also have nowhere that people can answer positive questions. If I were to create a questionnaire that only asks questions about the NHS like "do the noise of ambulances ever annoy you", it would look like I have a problem with ambulances. I do not – ambulances, like street performers, have a significant benefit for society. How can you reasonably send out a questionnaire without the ability for people to say whether they believe this to be true of buskers, too?

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Do people know what a PSPO is? Do they know that it criminalises certain types of behaviour, for certain people, at certain times? Do they know what legislation is currently on the books that can deal with excessive noise or obstructions? If not, how can they reasonably answer these questions?

2nd, by setting the terms of the questions, you are already leading people towards the conclusion you want. It's a terrible way of getting public opinion. For example:

- What if people would be okay with 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.?

Appendix One: Emails Received

- What if people don't care what the instruments are, as long as they are kept below a reasonable decibel limit?
- Why don't you give any allowance for *where* the busking takes place? Do all regions of K&C need exactly the same legislation? Are they all equally loud, residential and touristy?
- What do you mean by "highway obstruction" here? Because aren't ALL street performers, and aren't ALL crowds, an obstruction? How would you legislate to ban obstructions without banning buskers?
- What is the "immediate area outside tube stations"? Are we talking about 5m? 10? And why should these noisy, busy areas be more harshly legislated than other areas?

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Again, do people know what a PSPO is, exactly? Just to get a government view on this, Lord Taylor said this in the House of Lords, on PSPOs:

"The Government are certainly not seeking to restrict reasonable behaviour and activity, and we do not believe that these powers do. Live music and street entertainment play an important role in community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that is enjoyed by all"

Why is a paragraph like this nowhere to be seen in your consultation?

Lady Williams of Trafford said:

"The Government are clear that appropriate busking can enrich a community's quality of life and generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by many people".

You don't once have language even resembling this. You say you "celebrate the vibrancy" of the streets. But this says nothing about quality of life.

Is a survey this leading even legal as a way of getting responses from the public?

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What if you strongly agree with some, but strongly disagree with others? Why haven't you broken this down, item-by-item?

—

This survey is ludicrous.

[Name removed]

Appendix One: Emails Received

Email 4:

From: [Contact details removed]
Sent: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 6:45:37 PM
To: [Contact details removed]
Cc: [Contact details removed]
Subject: Re: [info] Street Entertainment Consultation

Thanks for bringing this to my attention.

The first thing I would question is whether the council is aware of the Home Office guidance on this legislation, which states that it should not be used to prevent busking or other forms of street performance unless they are causing genuine and serious antisocial behaviour? It leaves you open to a legal challenge, either over the policy itself as a whole, or in any cases where it is used against an individual busker. The Musicians' Union and Equity are both against the use of PSPO's against busking and are willing to support their members if necessary. Liberty as well have shown an interest in anti-busking PSPO's in the past.

This begs the question, if a busker is doing so in their performance why can't they be dealt with using existing legislation? All the issues caused by the small number of problem buskers can be tackled by a raft of powers such as the 1980 Highways Act (obstruction), 1974 Control of Pollution Act (amplification after 9pm), Noise Abatement Orders etc. I understand some of these may be cumbersome to use, and don't provide the necessary results as quickly as you'd like, but you still have recourse to the Community Protection Notice (much as I dislike it personally) if you have a genuine problem.

For me PSPO's create arbitrary criminal offences. In fact they actually target people who are not causing a problem. For example 'no busking outside a tube station'. If the busker isn't causing a problem why shouldn't they? Many Tube stations are sensible places to busk, because they often have wider pavement areas to allow movement of people, and there is often a gap in shops/businesses so there is actually less chance of causing disturbance. Preventing buskers playing there may force them along the street to areas where there are narrower pavements and more shops/businesses. Time limits; why not allow buskers to play late at night if they are not bothering anybody? You can already enforce a 9pm curfew for amps using the legislation I mentioned above. But is it reasonable if buskers are performing in locations where there is a busy night-time economy to expect them to be silent when there are bars pumping out music and noisy groups of people around until the small hours?

I agree with [name removed] point that the wording of the survey is pushing the results in a certain direction, by emphasising the possible negatives associated with street performance.

As I director of the Keep Streets Live campaign I'd like to offer the council the chance to meet and discuss alternatives to this PSPO, such as the systems of guidance we have successfully promoted in Birmingham, Liverpool, York, Chester and a number of other UK towns and cities.

We believe the vast majority of 'problems' can be dealt with firstly by a process of dialogue and mutual respect, that there should be a clear and fair process in place to deal with any problems that arise, and that there should be effective enforcement action as a last resort. If buskers themselves feel involved and represented in this guidance then it is far more likely to be successful.

Appendix One: Emails Received

To me a PSPO sends a message that this is a 'hostile environment' for buskers, which is quite the opposite of what I expect you'd like to achieve; vibrant public spaces that can be enjoyed by all.

Please feel free to contact me on this issue,
Many regards
[Name removed]

Director KSL

Email 5:

From: [Contact details removed]
Sent: 27 June 2018 14:02
To: [Contact details removed]
Cc: [Contact details removed]
Subject: Re: [info] Street Entertainment Consultation

Thanks [Name removed],
And I wholeheartedly believe that, in general, lawmakers are trying to do the best thing by the people who live in their remits. I'm sure that the council is full of art lovers who appreciate the situation the music industry is in at the moment, and appreciate how vital busking is in propping it up.

It would be great to see that somehow represented in the consultation. Perhaps you could add "We are a borough rich in local talent, and it is that talent we want our residents and tourists to enjoy".

You should also add a section where people can talk of what they LIKE about busking, a place where people can post positive feedback (in the style of the yes/no agree/disagree questions you have *against* busking), and a description of what a PSPO is, before asking whether people would support one. It would also be great if people could qualify how big a nuisance loud busking or obstructions are.

The above changes would go some way towards making the consultation useful.

Thanks,

[Name removed]

Appendix One: Emails Received

Email 6:

From: [Contact details removed]
Sent: Monday, June 4, 2018 2:50 pm
Subject: Re: Fwd: Street Entertainment Consultation
To: [Contact details removed]
Cc: [Contact details removed]

Dear [Name removed] and Sir / Madam,

I received the email from [name removed] and I live in [address removed].

I am not sure my knowledge is useful to this matter, but please let me tell you my experience in Japan.

In my 20s, I belonged to a theatre company and respectively performed as a semi-professional Japanese dancer.

The theatre company had an original musical which is incorporated a sense of Music Hall. In order to produce it, a director researched contemporary street music trend in 1990s.

The research has been picked up as the foundation for Tokyo's busking system. Basically the system is almost the same in the UK, but Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG) added some more rules:

1. Set the specific spots for busking as like London tube stations do - I am not sure how they decided the specific spots where you wish to know, sorry
2. Buskers have to take audition every year
3. Only certified / licence holder buskers can play at the specific basking spot
4. Certified buskers must book the spot in advance
5. If the busker breaks the rule, the certification / licence is stripped off and not allow to take the next year's audition
6. Cap the numbers of buskers each year
7. They must be show the certificate / licence when they were asked by the TMG staff or police.

These are a summary of TMG's first year busking rule – not 100%, but 80% sure.

Hope this information is useful for you.

Kind regards,

[Name and contact details removed]

Appendix One: Emails Received

Email 7:

From: [contact details removed]
Sent: 04 June 2018 15:12
To: [contact details removed]
Cc: [contact details removed]>
Subject: RE: Street Entertainment Consultation

Dear [Name removed],

This is a shockingly biased questionnaire that should be withdrawn. It is so biased it may even be illegal.

It makes no pretension of being neutral.

It only asks for negative comment about street entertainment. A proper survey would ask people whether they like it and why. By asking negative questions you encourage negative answers.

It only asks for why a PSPO should NOT be introduced. Not why it should. Again, utter bias.

I am ashamed of a council that puts out a biased questionnaire in this way.

Can you please advise me which is the best way to escalate my concern. Should I write to the Mayor, the chief executive of the council, the council's legal team, or a local government ombudsman?

Kind regards,

[Name removed]

Email 8:

MAYOR OF LONDON

[REDACTED]
Strategic Head of Performance and Transformation
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
1st Floor
37 Pembroke Road Annexe
London
W8 6PW

Date: 13 July 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for sharing the consultation on the proposed Public Space Protection Order.

London's rich busking scene is a great asset for the capital. Its community of highly talented performers enliven London's streets, enhance London's reputation as one of the world's great creative cities, and provide free, accessible cultural performances for thousands of Londoners and visitors every day. The majority of performers include busking as a vital part of a portfolio career alongside gigging, recording, releasing albums, touring, teaching, studying and charity work. London's street performers are a crucial part of the ecology.

Busk in London – existing framework

Busk in London was launched in 2015 by the Mayor to promote responsible busking and tackle the patchwork of inconsistent rules and regulations across London. Its approach has been one of partnership between the GLA, local authorities, street performers, land owners, the police and other key stakeholders.

A new website, buskinlondon.com, was created to bring together information about busking in the capital in one place so all stakeholders could easily access it. The first ever Buskers' Code was created, a simple set of common sense guidelines for the whole of London. It helps performers, the police, councils, business, residents and visitors understand the law and best practice on busking.

A positive approach

Busking is not an anti-social activity. The consultation wording risks framing busking as a problem that needs to be controlled rather than an asset that needs to be supported in the right way.

We recognise the difficulty councils face in enforcing against irresponsible buskers and the problem this poses for the majority of responsible buskers. We do not, however, support blanket enforcement of buskers. We recommend that the council support those who want to busk responsibly, adding to the cultural life of the borough, through wider engagement and promotion of best practice detailed in the Buskers' Code.

City Hall, London, SE1 2AA - london.gov.uk - mayor@london.gov.uk - 020 7983 4000

Appendix One: Emails Received

The restrictions proposed in the consultation can already be addressed by using existing legislation, especially in terms of excessive noise and obstruction of the highway. We would encourage the council to use existing powers available to enforce against irresponsible busking rather than impose blanket restrictions.

The Buskers' Code of Conduct

The Buskers' Code already addresses a lot of the activities listed in Q1, for example, around repetition of music, volume and positioning of performance pitches. It also includes guidance on how to avoid issues leading to complaints. We would encourage greater promotion and understanding of the Buskers' Code to performers, residents and businesses as a model of good practice.

Build on Existing Work

Our experience of working with boroughs shows that enforcement against irresponsible busking is often difficult due to a lack of resource. If the council were to go down the PSPO route, is additional resource to enforce the proposed restrictions in Q2 in place? We recommend that resource would be better spent in direct on-street engagement with performers to manage any issues that arise pre-emptively. This approach enables the cultural benefits to an area through continued busking to continue, making our streets a better place for residents and encouraging vital tourism.

Westminster City Council has a dedicated officer who directly engages with performers in the West End. This has led to a greater understanding by performers of the issues affecting areas where space is at a premium and a willingness to engage with the council to make sure street performance isn't restricted. Is there scope for the council to fund similar roles in the locations the PSPO is being proposed?

Summary

We would encourage the council to engage with the work that has been developed across London over some years to develop models of best practice to effectively support busking in the capital.

We recommend that the council:

1. Recognise busking as culturally and economically beneficial to the life of the borough and London as whole.
2. Support responsible busking through partnership working and engagement with street performers.
3. Promote the Buskers' Code as a tool for all stakeholders to support best practice.
4. Use existing powers to enforce against irresponsible busking rather than blanket restrictions.

[Name removed]

Assistant Director, Culture and Creative Industries

Appendix two: Survey data tables

Survey data tables

This section contains data tables from the survey.

Q1 Do any of the following activities caused by street entertainers/buskers have a negative impact on you?

	Yes, frequently		Yes, occasionally		No, never		No Reply	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Loud performances (music, singing or speaking)	58.8%	243	19.6%	81	20.8%	86	0.7%	3
Repetition of performance (e.g. same song being frequently repeated)	52.5%	217	19.9%	82	22.8%	94	4.8%	20
Entertainers too close together	28.8%	119	27.8%	115	34.6%	143	8.7%	36
Pavement or highway obstructions (caused by crowds or performance equipment)	38.0%	157	26.6%	110	28.8%	119	6.5%	27
Other	11.9%	49	4.4%	19	19.9%	82	63.9%	264

Appendix two: Survey data tables

Q2 If a PSPO is introduced it could contain a range of restrictions to help address excessive noise, nuisance, annoyance, danger or risk of harm to residents, visitors and businesses. Please indicate whether you support or oppose the following possible restrictions.

	Support		Neither support nor oppose		Oppose		No Reply	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Prohibiting street entertainment/busking/amplified public speaking at all times	43.6%	180	18.2%	75	33.7%	39	4.6%	19
Prohibiting street entertainment/busking/amplified public speaking outside of 10am to 7pm.	60.5%	250	13.8%	57	16.9%	70	8.7%	36
Prohibiting mains electricity or generator powered amplifiers.	73.8%	305	11.6%	48	12.3%	51	2.2%	9
Prohibiting the use of microphones/loudspeakers/megaphones or similar equipment designed to amplify the volume of speech or music.	73.1%	302	9.2%	38	14.8%	61	2.9%	12
Prohibiting the use of noisy musical instruments (e.g. drums and bagpipes).	62.0%	256	16.2%	67	19.4%	80	2.4%	10
Prohibiting street entertainers/buskers/public speakers from occupying any one location for more than an hour in a 24 hour period.	63.0%	260	16.5%	68	16.5%	68	4.1%	17
Prohibiting street entertainers/buskers/public speakers from being within 50 metres of another street entertainer/busker/public speaker.	67.1%	277	16.2%	67	11.9%	49	4.8%	20
Prohibiting performances that pose a health and safety risk (e.g. due to highway obstructions or overcrowding).	76.8%	317	11.4%	47	8.5%	35	3.4%	14
Prohibiting performances in the immediate area outside underground stations.	42.1%	174	29.3%	121	21.3%	88	7.3%	30

Appendix two: Survey data tables

Q4 Do you feel that a PSPO is needed to help control street entertainment/busking activities in the borough?

	%	Count
Yes, I feel a PSPO is needed	69.0%	285
No, I do not feel a PSPO is needed	20.3%	84
Don't know	9.2%	38
No Reply	1.5%	6

Q6 How strongly do you agree or disagree that the above locations are the correct locations to introduce a PSPO for?

	%	Count
Strongly agree	47.5%	196
Agree	17.2%	71
Neither agree nor disagree	10.2%	42
Disagree	7.3%	30
Strongly disagree	12.3%	51
Don't know	4.6%	19
No reply	1.0%	4

Q9 Are you a...

	%	Count
Resident of RBKC	60.8%	251
Business within RBKC	31.0%	128
Visitor to RBKC	8.7%	36
Street entertainer/busker	1.9%	8
Other	7.7%	32
No reply	1.5%	6

Appendix two: Survey data tables

Q11 Are you...

	%	Count
Resident of RBKC	60.8%	251
Business within RBKC	31.0%	128
Visitor to RBKC	8.7%	36
Street entertainer/busker	1.9%	8
Other	7.7%	32
No reply	1.5%	6

Q12 How old are you?

	%	Count
Under 18	0.0%	0
18-24	2.7%	11
25-30	5.8%	24
31-50	28.8%	119
51-64	32.9%	136
65 plus	27.4%	113
No reply	2.4%	10

Appendix two: Survey data tables

Q13 How would you best describe your race or ethnic group?

	%	Count
White or White British	77.0%	318
Black or Black British	0.2%	1
Asian or Asian British	1.7%	7
Mixed	3.1%	13
Other	1.5%	6
Prefer not to say	11.9%	49
No reply	4.6%	19

Q14 Do you have any long term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities?

	%	Count
Yes	7.3%	30
No	89.3%	369
No reply	3.4%	14

Appendix three: Survey comments

Comments

This section of the report contains comments made by respondents. Comments had been 'themed' and therefore may appear more than once against multiple themes.

Q1a) If there are other activities, related to street entertainment/busking, that have a negative impact on you please specify them below.

Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Noise issues/amplified music too loud	46	Organised gang	3
Crowds/overcrowding/blocked pavements	20	Other sources of noise and nuisance - e.g. cafes and bars	3
Poor quality busking	18	Gambling	2
Begging/aggressive begging	12	Good quality busking	2
Impact on businesses/difficult to work	12	Location not suitable	2
Health and safety issues - Slip/trip hazards, fire, etc.	12	Specific entertainers identified	2
Aggressive behaviour/atmosphere	9	Circus acts	1
In favour of buskers/street entertainers	9	Designate areas for busking	1
Drumming/loud musical instruments	7	Increase in busking	1
Street drinking/drugs issues	7	Litter	1
Repetition	5	Number of performers/length of performance	1
Trains - busking on trains	4	Public speakers	1
Crime	3	Survey	1
Impact on health	3	To close together	1
Notting Hill Carnival	3	Other	1

Comments

Aggressive behaviour/atmosphere

- It is mostly amplified music now. This results in more people shouting over the music and the general atmosphere becomes aggressive. Good acoustic music with a guitar has a more calming effect. By passers smile and may listen. The problem with the Earl's Court station area is that buskers compete with the traffic noise. It's the place and time busking - also buskers can be vulnerable and are on the receiving end of aggression from members of the public.
- Very loud noise from buskers, I have been in the position on my stall in Portobello Road when I can't hear from customers are saying and vice versa. Also music being so loud is harmful to children as well as adults. Some buskers are aggressive when you ask them to tone down a bit.
- Frequent (almost constant) anti-social behaviour outside our flat in Tavistock Square and Gardens, in the form of drug dealing, drunkenness, loud shouting and abusive behaviour to me and my partner when asked to quieten down.

Appendix three: Survey comments

- Living near to the station, I find there is a lot of performers that can be aggressive in their approach to get donations.
- The buskers make it very unpleasant as a resident. They cause obstructions, making it difficult to use the enjoy the market. They rarely co-operate if you ask them to turn down the volume or move on and are sometimes aggressive.
- Buskers attract pickpockets. Buskers are rude and threatening. They come to RBKC only to make money, without contributing back. They don't even pay taxes on their earnings.
- Buskers refusing to reduce volume when asked professional buskers refusing to allow amateurs - often music students - to use the pitch.
- The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety.
- I have been sworn at and shouted at for asking buskers to quieten it down.

Begging/aggressive begging

- Beggars around Earl's Court tube and fast food shops.
- Busking often goes hand in hand with begging - to be discouraged.
- Often looks more like begging/substance dependency, particularly around Earl's Court Road entrance to Earls Court tube (rags, dirt /unkempt, cans of beer, dogs, bedding, cardboard. Has nothing to do with busking.
- Seems to attract drunk entertainers and beggars.
- The aggressive begging by the performers such as the accordion man in Notting Hill Gate. The sandman seems to have been removed and must not come back. The man who blows bubbles or creates balloons then demands payment. The man who fills the arcade at Barker's building with his "art".
- These are not buskers they are beggars playing instruments.
- There appears to have been a notable increase in street entertainment over the last few years which does attract groups of people and there has recently been an increase in begging particularly along Exhibition Road, both of which are targeting the outside queues of visitors to the various museums and cafes. I feel this is reflecting negatively on the area as well as the noise disruption which significantly impacts employees working within institutions along Exhibition Road. It really needs to be understood that the busking is a continuous noise problem; it is not an intermittent annoyance.
- Food/smell and rubbish around places of 'performance'; begging associated with 'performance'.
- Street drinking and public drunkenness, aggressive begging, drug dealing, violence.
- Beggars sitting on pavements.
- Aggressive begging using musical instruments.
- Begging is illegal under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. Busking is even worse, since the perpetrators cause massive noise and disturbance whilst expecting passers-by to pay them money for their noise. If one attends a concert, for which the musician/s have to be selected within a regulated environment, attendees choose to attend, however buskers do not have to be good, they play in unregulated places, they do not have to pay for a

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license, nor do they pay taxes on their earnings which other musicians or 'entertainers' must, nor do they pay rent for the space in which they play. Our streets in Kensington High Street and Brompton Road are filled with horrific noise from loud amplified music, or loud instrumental music such as saxophone, accordion, drums, etc. And then there are card sharks too causing disturbance and crowds.

Impact on businesses/difficult to work

- There appears to have been a notable increase in street entertainment over the last few years which does attract groups of people and there has recently been an increase in begging particularly along Exhibition Road, both of which are targeting the outside queues of visitors to the various museums and cafes. I feel this is reflecting negatively on the area as well as the noise disruption which significantly impacts employees working within institutions along Exhibition Road. It really needs to be understood that the busking is a continuous noise problem; it is not an intermittent annoyance.
- Noise from buskers interrupting meetings and distracting from work.
- Buskers amplifying their music on Exhibition Road have a serious impact on me working at the Natural History Museum. The noise disturbs me and makes it difficult for me to work in my office.
- Disruption to meetings being held in street side rooms at the Natural History Museum.
- Very loud noise from buskers, I have been in the position on my stall in Portobello Road when I can't hear from customers are saying and vice versa. Also music being so loud is harmful to children as well as adults. Some buskers are aggressive when you ask them to tone down a bit.
- The busker is just very next to my stall on the middle of the road. The noise as well as obstruction of customer is adversely impacting my business and my health and my customers.
- One performer was so loud that the Gilding the Lily flower stall in front of South Kensington Station could not hear their customers (including us) and when asked to turn the volume on her amplifier down, refused to do so. One has very little recourse when addressing such concerns. Additionally, it appears to be impacting on the business of Building the Lilly, which has been a staple of the area for many years.
- Buskers and the crowds around them (for which buskers are responsible) block access to stalls and shops. They also create a safety hazard when they play at areas where traffic goes through. They detract from trade: as a resident, I try to go to Portobello market to support local traders, but with buskers invading the market and making such a noise, visiting the market is an increasingly unpleasant experience. Traders are on edge because they have been submitted to loud noise they haven't asked for and, when buskers are loud, customers and traders are having to shout to make themselves heard above the raucous. I am finding I go to the market less and less because of the buskers. Many buskers are rude, threatening, selfish and abuse too. I have asked many buskers to turn the volume down or move on and many refuse and are nasty.
- It's particularly problematic if the buskers are playing between 8am and 2pm as this is when I am usually reading, writing, or editing technical reports.
- I am finding it very difficult to concentrate on doing work. Sometimes in order to do any Skype meeting I need to move in other rooms.
- We have a shop on Portobello Road. Most buskers are insensitive to the fact that their music is so loud that our customers cannot hear us and we cannot hear them resulting in their leaving and our losing the sale.

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- Regularly musicians will play for three or more hours during the busy period of Portobello street market on a Saturday. This has an adverse effect on business for me and other market stall traders near me.

Circus acts

- Circus acts, i.e., jugglers, unicycle, still busking and they still use a mike to attract crowds.

Crime

- On the square where I live (pedestrianised between of Tavistock Road and Basing Street) it attracts drunks, drug dealers noise and nuisance and anti-social behaviour outside our windows and up in Tavistock Gardens wallets and purses of hapless tourists emptied and dropped inside my wall or in the bushes or under the benches in the park. Then the mini festivals that are mounted exacerbates the same. The whole effect becomes one of intimidation and abuse for blocks. Lawless and vile.
- Buskers attract pickpockets. Buskers are rude and threatening. They come to RBKC only to make money, without contributing back. They don't even pay taxes on their earnings.
- Pickpocket thieving whilst unable to pass.

Crowds/overcrowding/blocked pavements

- The performers who use equipment cause hazards, from crowds and performance especially where there is very little space like station forecourts. Trip and slippery pavements from spillage is dangerous.
- Outside Earl's Court Station. At times, the standard is surprisingly good, however it needs to be regulated. Just yesterday, there were entertainers congregating on pavement outside the Co-op - not enough space.
- Dangerous street entertainment- either using fire/dangerous equipment or crowds being so big they spill into the road.
- One immediately follows the other. Crowds block the Brompton Rd pavement at the east side of Harrods.
- The loud, low quality, repetitive amplified music played outside the Earl's Court station by street performers who obstruct the station exit is an urgent problem.
- At northeast corner of Harrods. Confusion on the pavement owing to blocked passage. Occasionally she'll games. Almost daily electronically amplified music. That must be stopped. The noise is terrible there and it goes into residential streets.
- In addition to musical busking, which has intrusive amplified sound, there is one street entertainer that blows bubbles, which leaves large slicks of slippery soap scum on the pavements in South Kensington which are a public safety hazard. The obstruction is compounded by the need for the defensive blocks on Exhibition Road, which creates bottlenecks when the buskers stand near these barriers.
- The blocking of access to storage on Portobello Road.
- The noise producing activities take place next to the exit at Cromwell Road Exhibition Road junction of the underground pedestrian walkway from South Kensington Underground station. It is relatively crowded and noisy throughout the day. The noise is enhanced by the echo produced by the Victoria and Albert Museum across Exhibition Road. And the buildings across Cromwell Road. The loud performances "greet" the visitors to the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum - entering via Exhibition Road. At intensive visiting times; school and summer holidays, the queues of the Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road entrances reach the noise source. Very often

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the queue for the Natural History Museum Exhibition Road entrance have to double up ("progressing" back to the junction and then going away from it towards the entrance of the museum. The visitors including vulnerable sensitive children, babies and old people are trapped in this noise trap. The level of noise under these circumstances is that of health hazard - torture!!! And babies and small children suffer. Their expectations of enjoyment, exploration and fun transform into a nightmare. The queues are very slow, so the time spent in the noise trap is long. At peak time there are other traps - ice cream and cold drink vendors praying on the children trapped in the slow moving queue. The children are tired and nervous before they even set foot in the Museum. Expectations result in disappointment. If I were a guest planning to come to visit the Natural History Museum and faced these circumstances, I would walk away and advise other people to do so. Many colleagues suffer from the direct effects of the noise. Many people who cherish the Natural History Museum as a most remarkable place of beauty (building and greenery) learning, inspiration and enjoyment cannot understand why people working there and the visitors are subjected to this torture. Whilst street music, comedy etc. is part of a city life the Natural History Museum corner of Exhibition Road - Cromwell Road intersection has become an uncomfortable place mainly during periods of holidays. This source of noise should be cancelled. A single stringed instrument or singer - without loudspeakers, should be the maximum.

- The busker is just very next to my stall on the middle of the road. The noise as well as obstruction of customer is adversely impacting my business and my health and my customers.
- Buskers and the crowds around them (for which buskers are responsible) block access to stalls and shops. They also create a safety hazard when they play at areas where traffic goes through. They detract from trade: as a resident, I try to go to Portobello market to support local traders, but with buskers invading the market and making such a noise, visiting the market is an increasingly unpleasant experience. Traders are on edge because they have been submitted to loud noise they haven't asked for and, when buskers are loud, customers and traders are having to shout to make themselves heard above the raucous. I am finding I go to the market less and less because of the buskers. Many buskers are rude, threatening, selfish and abuse too. I have asked many buskers to turn the volume down or move on and many refuse and are nasty.
- Gathered street crowd so dense that difficult to make my way around them when shopping occasionally.
- I can't stand the area anymore because of buskers and the crowds around them. It's just a circus now. I am thinking of moving out. Why do buskers think that residents want to listen to them all day long? Why hasn't the Council done something yet to protect residents? I hate going to Portobello Market now because it's just full of noisy buskers. Buskers also take parking spaces and we know these are in short supply in Notting Hill.
- The buskers make it very unpleasant as a resident. They cause obstructions, making it difficult to use the enjoy the market. They rarely co-operate if you ask them to turn down the volume or move on and are sometimes aggressive.
- Around South Kensington Station buskers create congestion around the station area. For those living in the area it is constant noise pollution. The pavement outside Gloucester Road Station is again not a suitable space for buskers, loud amplified sound creates noise pollution for commuters, workers and residents. residents. Busking does not work in this area, it is not Covent Garden.
- As a business that attracts a large number of visitors, Harrods is extremely concerned about the disruption caused by the large number of buskers and street performers that gather on the pedestrianised area of Hans Crescent and around Knightsbridge Tube

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station. Congestion and large crowds drawn by performers in a small space causes a public safety risk for those nearby the extremely busy Brompton Road.

- People gathering around the entertainers can make circulation difficult at times and affect the quietness of the neighbourhood.
- Portobello Road corner Denbigh Terrace. Crowds are usually drawn to the loud noise (nothing to do with talent). Visitors are clapping, shouting and whistling, blocking street for traffic and pedestrians. Also sitting on the doorsteps with picnics throwing food around.
- Yes, coming out of Earl's Court Station on the Earl's Court Road. It is already congested and very noisy and often there are very load buskers there. It is not conducive to the quality of life for resident who live nearby, or above the shops there and also gives a bad impression of the area. It also attracts the many drunks and drug users that frequent Earl's Court anyway.
- There has been occasions when so many people gather to hear a busker that they surround my stall, blocking it off.

Designate areas for busking

- Certain places in busy streets could be designated for busking but not in residential or parks where it would be nothing but a nuisance.

Drumming/loud musical instruments

- Drummers playing for hours at a time.
- Drumming is particularly intrusive. There is a very aggressive drummer under the Westway who is there all weekend for four to five hours at a time.
- Drummers in Powis Square.
- Amplification. Drumming.
- Amplifiers and iPads used as backing tracks to enhance the volume cause a lot of noise pollution and distress to residents. Bagpipes, saxophones and drummers are also really hard to tolerate. Yesterday we had [named person] playing his pan drum with a particularly shrill timbre, on the corner of Chepstow Villas and Portobello Road (using amps etc.) for several hours - from morning until around 6.00 p.m. We also had [named person] - also playing a pan drum which he says is quiet, but I don't agree - about twenty yards away in the residential South part of Portobello Road which is almost entirely residential housing. You can imagine what the noise was like. I speak to the buskers when I can and have got to know some of them. Most are friendly and reasonable when I tell that that they are disturbing elderly residents and people with young babies - and they tell me that they are just 'doing their last number' and then leave. Some say they will turn down the sound and do so but it often goes back up again. In the past some buskers have been aggressive toward me - and occasionally, I have known them to fight over the 'pitch'. Yesterday there was also a very loud female singer/guitarist - using amp and microphone but she wasn't there long and I didn't get a chance to speak to her. To give you an indication of how it can be (on Saturdays mainly, but increasingly Sundays and weekdays) I can't make a phone call or hold a conversation with my windows open, and can't use my balcony, whilst buskers are playing. I even have to play my own radio or music quite loudly, risking causing noise nuisance to my own neighbours. I've used the RBKC noise nuisance line with mixed results (they don't have enough staff and can't attend quickly enough) and local police/wardens don't seem to understand what they are able to do and are therefore no very helpful. I am driven out of my flat most Saturdays because of the noise and a sense of dread befalls me when I return home, in case the buskers are still there - as was the case yesterday. I am not able to go about my life

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peacefully and other residents have said this to me. This survey is not widely publicised - I don't think many locals are aware of it. I do know that the survey was being distributed to some of the buskers (e.g. [named person]) yesterday. I am concerned that if this survey has been given to buskers - but not to residents, the results will be biased.

- Drums should be banned please.
- Don't want drumming or amps.

Gambling

- Gambling three cup game is swindling tourists!
- Begging is illegal under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. Busking is even worse, since the perpetrators cause massive noise and disturbance whilst expecting passers-by to pay them money for their noise. If one attends a concert, for which the musician/s have to be selected within a regulated environment, attendees choose to attend, however buskers do not have to be good, they play in unregulated places, they do not have to pay for a license, nor do they pay taxes on their earnings which other musicians or 'entertainers' must, nor do they pay rent for the space in which they play. Our streets in Kensington High Street and Brompton Road are filled with horrific noise from loud amplified music, or loud instrumental music such as saxophone, accordion, drums, etc. And then there are card sharks too causing disturbance and crowds.

Good quality busking

- Outside Earl's Court Station. At times, the standard is surprisingly good, however it needs to be regulated. Just yesterday, there were entertainers congregating on pavement outside the Co-op - not enough space.
- Entertainment brings joy to those passing on often dreary days... there are those playing in Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate with true talent... this is part of our city heritage and should not be curbed.

Health and safety issues - Slip/trip hazards, fire, etc.

- The performers who use equipment cause hazards, from crowds and performance especially where there is very little space like station forecourts. Trip and slippery pavements from spillage is dangerous.
- Dangerous street entertainment- either using fire/dangerous equipment or crowds being so big they spill into the road.
- One 'entertainer' who creates large bubbles leaves detergent all over the pavement when he leaves causing a huge slip hazard.
- In addition to musical busking, which has intrusive amplified sound, there is one street entertainer that blows bubbles, which leaves large slicks of slippery soap scum on the pavements in South Kensington which are a public safety hazard. The obstruction is compounded by the need for the defensive blocks on Exhibition Road, which creates bottlenecks when the buskers stand near these barriers.
- The guy that blows bubbles leaves excess soap on the pavement which is incredibly slippery.
- Entertainers who blow bubbles are a huge concern to me - twice I have seen bubbles being carried by the wind, into the road, and children running after them. This is in part due to how badly pedestrianised the roads are - but mostly because idiots are blowing bubbles into the road around small children.

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- Performers that blow bubbles: bubbles are sometimes carried by the wind towards the part of exhibition road with traffic and children chase after it, into the road. My suggestion would be to fully pedestrianise Exhibition Road.
- Buskers and the crowds around them (for which buskers are responsible) block access to stalls and shops. They also create a safety hazard when they play at areas where traffic goes through. They detract from trade: as a resident, I try to go to Portobello market to support local traders, but with buskers invading the market and making such a noise, visiting the market is an increasingly unpleasant experience. Traders are on edge because they have been submitted to loud noise they haven't asked for and, when buskers are loud, customers and traders are having to shout to make themselves heard above the raucous. I am finding I go to the market less and less because of the buskers. Many buskers are rude, threatening, selfish and abuse too. I have asked many buskers to turn the volume down or move on and many refuse and are nasty.
- Buskers with bubble machines leaving slipper residue in its wake - I have slipped a couple of times on Exhibition Road. Now wary and can avoid this potential hazard
- Some buskers appear to be undertaking dangerous activity e.g. involving fire or oils that cause a slip hazard.
- Street entertainer who blows bubbles - the soapy water makes the paving on Exhibition Road very slippery.
- Some performances use equipment such as chalk or sand on the street and the residuals are often found afterward.

Impact on health

- The noise producing activities take place next to the exit at Cromwell Road Exhibition Road junction of the underground pedestrian walkway from South Kensington Underground station. It is relatively crowded and noisy throughout the day. The noise is enhanced by the echo produced by the Victoria and Albert Museum across Exhibition Road. And the buildings across Cromwell Road. The loud performances "greet" the visitors to the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum - entering via Exhibition Road. At intensive visiting times; school and summer holidays, the queues of the Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road entrances reach the noise source. Very often the queue for the Natural History Museum Exhibition Road entrance have to double up ("progressing" back to the junction and then going away from it towards the entrance of the museum. The visitors including vulnerable sensitive children, babies and old people are trapped in this noise trap. The level of noise under these circumstances is that of health hazard - torture!!! And babies and small children suffer. Their expectations of enjoyment, exploration and fun transform into a nightmare. The queues are very slow, so the time spent in the noise trap is long. At peak time there are other traps - ice cream and cold drink vendors praying on the children trapped in the slow moving queue. The children are tired and nervous before they even set foot in the Museum. Expectations result in disappointment. If I were a guest planning to come to visit the Natural History Museum and faced these circumstances, I would walk away and advise other people to do so. Many colleagues suffer from the direct effects of the noise. Many people who cherish the Natural History Museum as a most remarkable place of beauty (building and greenery) learning, inspiration and enjoyment cannot understand why people working there and the visitors are subjected to this torture. Whilst street music, comedy etc. is part of a city life the Natural History Museum corner of Exhibition Road - Cromwell Road intersection has become an uncomfortable place mainly during periods of holidays. This source of noise should be cancelled. A single stringed instrument or singer - without loudspeakers, should be the maximum.

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- The busker is just very next to my stall on the middle of the road. The noise as well as obstruction of customer is adversely impacting my business and my health and my customers.
- The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety.

In favour of buskers/street entertainers

- Busking on the underground trains I find very annoying because I feel targeted and cannot get away from them but otherwise on balance I like buskers and approve of them much more than simple beggars.
- Entertainment brings joy to those passing on often dreary days... there are those playing in Kensington High Street and Notting Hill Gate with true talent... this is part of our city heritage and should not be curbed.
- I was born off Ladbroke Grove, please the buskers are lovely and do no one any harm, please don't try to sanitise the area further.
- Leave them alone people are too bitter. It's because of people making silly and self-centred complaints such as this which is what caused Grenfell. Leave these people to make money legally better than selling drugs and such.
- When the Council tries to "sanitise" what makes this area vibrant, creative and special. Its heavy-handed attempts to regulate and monetise public spaces is not welcome in North Kensington. This behaviour has a very negative impact on the amenity and character of the area, and is especially distasteful in North Kensington, for obvious reasons, including its long (and also more recent) history.
- A clear distinction is needed between street performers 'political campaigners'. Much of the annoying noise around Ladbroke Grove for example is those campaigners with megaphone not the musical performers. Street performers bring a lot of character to the area. Usually done in working hours and not an issue.
- If you're talking about quality of life, you should be looking at quality of answer. Instead of just yes/no answers to these "have they had a negative impact on you" questions, it should clarify what kind of negative impact. Is a "highway obstruction" a minor bother or something that's dangerous because it forces you into the road? Is "too loud" a mild distraction on your evening commute home, or something keeping you up at night? You also have nowhere that people can answer positive questions. If I were to create a questionnaire that only asks questions about the NHS like "do the noise of ambulances ever annoy you", it would look like I have a problem with ambulances. I do not - they are a significant benefit for society. How can you reasonably send out a questionnaire without the ability for people to say whether they believe this to be true of buskers, too? Why isn't this section "if busking has any negative OR POSITIVE impact on you, please specify how?"
- I assume there will be space to write the positives about buskers as this is one-sided - negative only.

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- This question is akin to "when did you stop beating your wife?" What about the positive impact? Colour, life and contribution to a vibrant street life?

Increase in busking

- There appears to have been a notable increase in street entertainment over the last few years which does attract groups of people and there has recently been an increase in begging particularly along Exhibition Road, both of which are targeting the outside queues of visitors to the various museums and cafes. I feel this is reflecting negatively on the area as well as the noise disruption which significantly impacts employees working within institutions along Exhibition Road. It really needs to be understood that the busking is a continuous noise problem; it is not an intermittent annoyance.

Litter

- Food/smell and rubbish around places of 'performance'; begging associated with 'performance'.

Location not suitable

- I live within 80 yards of Earls Court Underground Station next to the pub in Earl's Court Gardens. I know that my neighbours suffer from children being kept awake in the early evenings by busking at the entrance to the station. This really is not the place to allow busking
- Music played near the entrance to a shop making intrusive noise inside the shop.

Noise issues/ amplified music too loud

- It is mostly amplified music now. This results in more people shouting over the music and the general atmosphere becomes aggressive. Good acoustic music with a guitar has a more calming effect. By passers smile and may listen. The problem with the Earl's Court station area is that Buskers compete with the traffic noise. It's the place and time busking - also buskers can be vulnerable and are on the receiving end of aggression from members of the public.
- Loud sounds are caused mainly by the use of amplifiers. Some instruments like wind instruments do not need an amplifier to be loud.
- The loud, low quality, repetitive amplified music played outside the Earl's Court station by street performers who obstruct the station exit is an urgent problem.
- At northeast corner of Harrods. Confusion on the pavement owing to blocked passage. Occasionally she'll games. Almost daily electronically amplified music. That must be stopped. The noise is terrible there and it goes into residential streets.
- In addition to musical busking, which has intrusive amplified sound, there is one street entertainer that blows bubbles, which leaves large slicks of slippery soap scum on the pavements in South Kensington which are a public safety hazard. The obstruction is compounded by the need for the defensive blocks on Exhibition Road, which creates bottlenecks when the buskers stand near these barriers.
- Buskers are unwelcome at any time or any place. A source of noise pollution only and intrusive of my quiet enjoyment of going about my business.
- The loud, low quality, repetitive amplified music played outside the Earl's Court station by street performers who obstruct the station exit is an urgent problem.
- Just the general level of noise that is an unwanted intrusion.
- There appears to have been a notable increase in street entertainment over the last few years which does attract groups of people and there has recently been an increase in

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begging particularly along Exhibition Road, both of which are targeting the outside queues of visitors to the various museums and cafes. I feel this is reflecting negatively on the area as well as the noise disruption which significantly impacts employees working within institutions along Exhibition Road. It really needs to be understood that the busking is a continuous noise problem; it is not an intermittent annoyance.

- Noise from buskers interrupting meetings and distracting from work.
- Buskers amplifying their music on Exhibition Road have a serious impact on me working at the Natural History Museum. The noise disturbs me and makes it difficult for me to work in my office.
- Disruption to meetings being held in street side rooms at the Natural History Museum.
- Music too loud on Kensington High Street between Japan House and Marks and Spencer. Opposite side of street also has buskers playing too loud.
- I like the music of buskers on the underground but they are often far too loud and that really hurts my head.
- Using amplifier which is set too loud. Do not allow amplifier to be used.
- Very loud noise from buskers, I have been in the position on my stall in Portobello Road when I can't hear from customers are saying and vice versa. Also music being so loud is harmful to children as well as adults. Some buskers are aggressive when you ask them to tone down a bit.
- The worst ones are the ones with an amplifier in small streets or even Notting Hill Gate by Pembridge Road. And the numerous so called performers in Portobello Market who have no talent what so ever, just noisy.
- Street performers using loud amplifiers or recorded backings.
- The noise producing activities take place next to the exit at Cromwell Road Exhibition Road junction of the underground pedestrian walkway from South Kensington Underground station. It is relatively crowded and noisy throughout the day. The noise is enhanced by the echo produced by the Victoria and Albert Museum across Exhibition Road. And the buildings across Cromwell Road. The loud performances "greet" the visitors to the Natural History Museum and the Victoria and Albert Museum - entering via Exhibition Road. At intensive visiting times; school and summer holidays, the queues of the Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road entrances reach the noise source. Very often the queue for the Natural History Museum Exhibition Road entrance have to double up ("progressing" back to the junction and then going away from it towards the entrance of the museum. The visitors including vulnerable sensitive children, babies and old people are trapped in this noise trap. The level of noise under these circumstances is that of health hazard - torture!!! And babies and small children suffer. Their expectations of enjoyment, exploration and fun transform into a nightmare. The queues are very slow, so the time spent in the noise trap is long. At peak time there are other traps - ice cream and cold drink vendors praying on the children trapped in the slow moving queue. The children are tired and nervous before they even set foot in the Museum. Expectations result in disappointment. If I were a guest planning to come to visit the Natural History Museum and faced these circumstances, I would walk away and advise other people to do so. Many colleagues suffer from the direct effects of the noise. Many people who cherish the Natural History Museum as a most remarkable place of beauty (building and greenery) learning, inspiration and enjoyment cannot understand why people working there and the visitors are subjected to this torture. Whilst street music, comedy etc. is part of a city life the Natural History Museum corner of Exhibition Road - Cromwell Road intersection has become an uncomfortable place mainly during periods of holidays. This source of noise should be cancelled. A single stringed instrument or singer - without loudspeakers, should be the maximum.

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- The busker is just very next to my stall on the middle of the road. The noise as well as obstruction of customer is adversely impacting my business and my health and my customers.
- Extremely loud amplifiers - awfully loud music with endless repetitions - already the noise level here is extremely high, starting with the tube noise, traffic, drunken pedestrians loud and screaming at night, building works ongoing all the time and then adding the loud blaring music! It is becoming intolerable!
- Often I cannot open by windows when the children are trying to do homework as the noise is so bad. Buskers use amplifiers that make the sound unbearable.
- One performer was so loud that the Gilding the Lily flower stall in front of South Kensington Station could not hear their customers (including us) and when asked to turn the volume on her amplifier down, refused to do so. One has very little recourse when addressing such concerns. Additionally, it appears to be impacting on the business of Building the Lilly, which has been a staple of the area for many years.
- Buskers and the crowds around them (for which buskers are responsible) block access to stalls and shops. They also create a safety hazard when they play at areas where traffic goes through. They detract from trade: as a resident, I try to go to Portobello market to support local traders, but with buskers invading the market and making such a noise, visiting the market is an increasingly unpleasant experience. Traders are on edge because they have been submitted to loud noise they haven't asked for and, when buskers are loud, customers and traders are having to shout to make themselves heard above the raucous. I am finding I go to the market less and less because of the buskers. Many buskers are rude, threatening, selfish and abuse too. I have asked many buskers to turn the volume down or move on and many refuse and are nasty.
- The main problem is the over amplification of backing tracks and the performers lack of talent.
- I can't stand the area anymore because of buskers and the crowds around them. It's just a circus now. I am thinking of moving out. Why do buskers think that residents want to listen to them all day long? Why hasn't the Council done something yet to protect residents? I hate going to Portobello Market now because it's just full of noisy buskers. Buskers also take parking spaces and we know these are in short supply in Notting Hill.
- It's amplified music I have a major problem with as I can hear it streets away.
- Loud electrified amplified busking.
- We live in an already loud environment with many busy bars and restaurants. The patrons of these establishments hang around making excessive noise talking drinking and smoking. This can cause an uncomfortable and dangerous environment. Allowing live music at all hours as the case presently increases this anti-social element. This is a residential area, a fact which seems to have been forgotten by policy makers. Whilst I accept that street musicians need to earn a living there needs to be a better balance in our area which has long been blighted by excessive noise and antisocial behaviour.
- Amplification. Drumming.
- Yes I live on Exhibition Road near the station between Thurlow Street and Thurlow Place. The loud music is always bothersome. I'm a doctor and often work odd shifts in the emergency department, the performers are loud, not always good quality and disturb my sleep for shifts. I would be very grateful for restriction/licensing.
- I am fortunate enough to have a back garden. It is impossible to relax there due to buskers.
- Begging is illegal under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. Busking is even worse, since the perpetrators cause massive noise and disturbance whilst expecting passers-by to pay

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them money for their noise. If one attends a concert, for which the musician/s have to be selected within a regulated environment, attendees choose to attend, however buskers do not have to be good, they play in unregulated places, they do not have to pay for a license, nor do they pay taxes on their earnings which other musicians or 'entertainers' must, nor do they pay rent for the space in which they play. Our streets in Kensington High Street and Brompton Road are filled with horrific noise from loud amplified music, or loud instrumental music such as saxophone, accordion, drums, etc. And then there are card sharks too causing disturbance and crowds.

- The buskers make it very unpleasant as a resident. They cause obstructions, making it difficult to use the enjoy the market. They rarely co-operate if you ask them to turn down the volume or move on and are sometimes aggressive.
- Amplified music or loud backing tracks.
- Amplifiers and iPads used as backing tracks to enhance the volume cause a lot of noise pollution and distress to residents. Bagpipes, saxophones and drummers are also really hard to tolerate. Yesterday we had [named person] playing his pan drum with a particularly shrill timbre, on the corner of Chepstow Villas and Portobello Road (using amps etc.) for several hours - from morning until around 6.00 p.m. We also had [named person] - also playing a pan drum which he says is quiet, but I don't agree - about twenty yards away in the residential South part of Portobello Road which is almost entirely residential housing. You can imagine what the noise was like. I speak to the buskers when I can and have got to know some of them. Most are friendly and reasonable when I tell that that they are disturbing elderly residents and people with young babies - and they tell me that they are just 'doing their last number' and then leave. Some say they will turn down the sound and do so but it often goes back up again. In the past some buskers have been aggressive toward me - and occasionally, I have known them to fight over the 'pitch'. Yesterday there was also a very loud female singer/guitarist - using amp and microphone but she wasn't there long and I didn't get a chance to speak to her. To give you an indication of how it can be (on Saturdays mainly, but increasingly Sundays and weekdays) I can't make a phone call or hold a conversation with my windows open, and can't use my balcony, whilst buskers are playing. I even have to play my own radio or music quite loudly, risking causing noise nuisance to my own neighbours. I've used the RBKC noise nuisance line with mixed results (they don't have enough staff and can't attend quickly enough) and local police/wardens don't seem to understand what they are able to do and are therefore no very helpful. I am driven out of my flat most Saturdays because of the noise and a sense of dread befalls me when I return home, in case the buskers are still there - as was the case yesterday. I am not able to go about my life peacefully and other residents have said this to me. This survey is not widely publicised - I don't think many locals are aware of it. I do know that the survey was being distributed to some of the buskers (e.g. [named person]) yesterday. I am concerned that if this survey has been given to buskers - but not to residents, the results will be biased.
- Around South Kensington Station buskers create congestion around the station area. For those living in the area it is constant noise pollution. The pavement outside Gloucester Road Station is again not a suitable space for buskers, loud amplified sound creates noise pollution for commuters, workers and residents. residents. Busking does not work in this area, it is not Covent Garden.
- Buskers refusing to reduce volume when asked professional buskers refusing to allow amateurs - often music students - to use the pitch.
- Can hear them 200m away in our back garden. Repetitive tunes (saxophone) particularly annoying.
- Gross Intrusion into residential area and noise unacceptable.

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- If busking were confined to singing, playing an instrument (or speaking) with NO amplification or mechanical accompaniment it would be the greatest possible blessing. It would also foster genuine talent rather than pushy entitlement.
- Loud amplified noise - not genuine talent - the noise can be heard in my house and Earl's Court Gardens. It is disturbing to the peaceful enjoyment of our home.
- Religious groups and others use loud speakers.
- The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety.
- Don't want drumming or amps.
- Frequently too close together. Makes junction with Westbourne Grove dangerous. Too loud, can't hear us. Too much repetition, one busker stayed in the same place for three hours with only four songs.

Notting Hill Carnival

- The entertainment that has the most negative impact for us is the Notting Hill Carnival - the noise and mess has a negative impact on our home life and we have to leave our home every bank holiday weekend to escape from it.
- I think that during the carnival there are often too many bands too close together.
- The carnival has a very negative impact and this should be top of your priorities.

Number of performers/length of performance

- Entertainers follow each other. A day can be full form 11am to 6 pm with performances of three to four different performers.

Organised gang

- Really poor performances and performers who are clearly part of an organised 'gang'.
- The so called "buskers" in Kensington High Street are controlled by East European organised - crime gang masters. They pay no tax and doubtless are on benefits. Why the Council should support any scheme that endorses this behaviour beggars belief. It is time the RBKC woke up to the fact we the Council tax payers are its first priority not facilitating the illegal activities of Bulgarian concertina players.
- Buskers clearly part of an eastern European gang, the same gang which begged and slept rough on Notting Hill Gate in the past.

Other sources of noise and nuisance - e.g. cafes and bars

- The street music in Tavistock Piazza and the Portobello affects me as a resident on the corner of Lancaster Road and Portobello. However, the worst disturbance isn't from the street performers but from the cafe's and bars: Mau, UKAI, etc.
- I'm mostly affect[ed] by the noise and nuisance problems of the cafes and bars - Mau Mau, UKAI etc., rather than buskers per se. We live opposite Mau Mau and 50 yard from Ukai, we have to live with our double glazed window shut even during this months, at

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night it's even worse as all the weirdo station outside our house, and the door policy bouncer is doing nothing to minimise the noise of people smoking and drinking outside.

- We live in an already loud environment with many busy bars and restaurants. The patrons of these establishments hang around making excessive noise talking drinking and smoking. This can cause an uncomfortable and dangerous environment. Allowing live music at all hours as the case presently increases this anti-social element. This is a residential area, a fact which seems to have been forgotten by policy makers. Whilst I accept that street musicians need to earn a living there needs to be a better balance in our area which has long been blighted by excessive noise and antisocial behaviour.

Poor quality busking

- Really poor performances and performers who are clearly part of an organised 'gang'.
- Seems to attract drunk entertainers and beggars.
- Quality of music unacceptably low.
- The loud, low quality, repetitive amplified music played outside the Earl's Court station by street performers who obstruct the station exit is an urgent problem.
- Often the performers are untalented with only one or two songs in their repertoire. The tunes are repetitive and detrimental to my health.
- Very poor standard of performances.
- Too many buskers are not musicians.
- The ones that appear are often beggars only difference being they come with musical instruments. They can't really play an audible tune and I would not class them as 'performers' When it's right outside your window, it's quite distracting and very annoying.
- Really inept performers who are essentially beggars with musical instruments and, worse, amplifiers or drums.
- The worst ones are the ones with an amplifier in small streets or even Notting Hill Gate by Pembridge Road. And the numerous so called performers in Portobello Market who have no talent what so ever, just noisy.
- It is already terrible to have all the restaurants with tables outside the tube station and have to on top listen to bad singers and performers that do not bring entertainment but just noise.
- Exhibition Road in South Kensington has become a haven for poorly performing individuals preying on the tourists that visit our National Museum.
- The main problem is the over amplification of backing tracks and the performers lack of talent.
- Yes I live on Exhibition Road near the station between Thurlow Street and Thurlow Place. The loud music is always bothersome. I'm a doctor and often work odd shifts in the emergency department, the performers are loud, not always good quality and disturb my sleep for shifts. I would be very grateful for restriction/licensing.
- Begging is illegal under the Vagrancy Act of 1824. Busking is even worse, since the perpetrators cause massive noise and disturbance whilst expecting passers-by to pay them money for their noise. If one attends a concert, for which the musician/s have to be selected within a regulated environment, attendees choose to attend, however buskers do not have to be good, they play in unregulated places, they do not have to pay for a license, nor do they pay taxes on their earnings which other musicians or 'entertainers' must, nor do they pay rent for the space in which they play. Our streets in Kensington High Street and Brompton Road are filled with horrific noise from loud amplified music, or loud instrumental music such as saxophone, accordion, drums, etc. And then there are card sharks too causing disturbance and crowds.

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- Fairly often the 'performances' are nothing more than broadcast amplified recordings with dismal 'live' instrumental/vocal accompaniment. No talent whatsoever.
- Loud amplified noise - not genuine talent - the noise can be heard in my house and Earl's court gardens. It is disturbing to the peaceful enjoyment of our home.
- Performance with loudspeakers just playing any song that you can hear on the radio. They are not buskers, buskers perform and play themselves. These people sometimes appear in the tube.

Public speakers

- A clear distinction is needed between street performers 'political campaigners'. Much of the annoying noise around Ladbroke Grove for example is those campaigners with megaphone not the musical performers. Street performers bring a lot of character to the area. Usually done in working hours and not an issue.

Repetition

- Often the performers are untalented with only one or two songs in their repertoire. The tunes are repetitive and detrimental to my health.
- Extremely loud amplifiers - awfully loud music with endless repetitions - already the noise level here is extremely high, starting with the tube noise, traffic, drunken pedestrians loud and screaming at night, building works ongoing all the time and then adding the loud blaring music! It is becoming intolerable!
- I think the Caribbean steel player on Notting Hill Gate (North side near Mc Donald's). He tends to come at week-ends and not for long. It is relevant to the area of Notting Hill. One new "musician" has only one tune which he plays again and again.
- Can hear them 200m away in our back garden. Repetitive tunes (saxophone) particularly annoying.
- Frequently too close together. Makes junction with Westbourne Grove dangerous. Too loud, can't hear us. Too much repetition, one busker stayed in the same place for three hours with only four songs.

Specific entertainers identified

- The aggressive begging by the performers such as the accordion man in Notting Hill Gate. The sandman seems to have been removed and must not come back. The man who blows bubbles or creates balloons then demands payment. The man who fills the arcade at Barker's building with his "art".
- There's one creepy busker who seems mentally ill. He dresses bizarrely and mimes to recorded music. He's the only busker I have had or seen any trouble with.

Street drinking/drugs issues

- This activity on the square encourages street drinkers to congregate.
- Street drinking and public drunkenness, aggressive begging, drug dealing, violence.
- On the square where I live (pedestrianised between of Tavistock Road and Basing Street) it attracts drunks, drug dealers noise and nuisance and anti-social behaviour onside our windows and up in Tavistock Gardens wallets and purses of hapless tourists emptied and dropped inside my wall or in the bushes or under the benches in the park.

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Then the mini festivals that are mounted exacerbates the same. The whole effect becomes one of intimidation and abuse for blocks. Lawless and vile.

- The street buskers attract anti-social behaviour - in particularly street drinkers outside Earls Court tube station.
- People drinking and taking drugs on the street.
- Frequent (almost constant) anti-social behaviour outside our flat in Tavistock Square and Gardens, in the form of drug dealing, drunkenness, loud shouting and abusive behaviour to me and my partner when asked to quieten down.
- Yes, coming out of Earl's Court Station on the Earl's Court Road. It is already congested and very noisy and often there are very load buskers there. It is not conducive to the quality of life for resident who live nearby, or above the shops there and also gives a bad impression of the area. It also attracts the many drunks and drug users that frequent Earl's Court anyway.

Survey

- If you're talking about quality of life, you should be looking at quality of answer. Instead of just yes/no answers to these "have they had a negative impact on you" questions, it should clarify what kind of negative impact. Is a "highway obstruction" a minor bother or something that's dangerous because it forces you into the road? Is "too loud" a mild distraction on your evening commute home, or something keeping you up at night? You also have nowhere that people can answer positive questions. If I were to create a questionnaire that only asks questions about the NHS like "do the noise of ambulances ever annoy you", it would look like I have a problem with ambulances. I do not - they are a significant benefit for society. How can you reasonably send out a questionnaire without the ability for people to say whether they believe this to be true of buskers, too? Why isn't this section "if busking has any negative or positive impact on you, please specify how?"

Too close together

- Frequently too close together. Makes junction with Westbourne Grove dangerous. Too loud, can't hear us. Too much repetition, one busker stayed in the same place for three hours with only four songs.

Trains - busking on trains

- Busking on the underground trains I find very annoying because I feel targeted and cannot get away from them but otherwise on balance I like buskers and approve of them much more than simple beggars.
- I like the music of buskers on the underground but they are often far too loud and that really hurts my head.
- British Transport Police seem to be absent when I witness regularly noise in a confined space on the Circle line. It is daily and I assume it is policy to ignore/tolerate begging is not to be equated with a music student as seen in Notting Hill Gate underground station.
- Busking on the Tube - usually a very short piece, followed by almost aggressive begging between stations - should be prevented entirely.

Other

- I live near Earl's Court Station entrance in Earl's Court Road, where there is a particular problem.

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Q3) If you would like to make a comment about why you support, or oppose, any of these possible restrictions or on the impact they might have please do so below.

Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Negative impact of buskers/noise caused	72	Focus on other priorities	2
In favour of prohibiting amplification	33	In favour of 50 metre restriction	2
Positive comments about street entertainment/busking	16	In favour of prohibiting on health and safety grounds	2
In favour of prohibiting busking at all times	15	In favour of restricting performances to one hour	2
Against the PSPO	13	Licensing	2
Against restriction around underground stations	8	Survey	2
Designated areas	8	Against 50 metre restriction	1
Poor quality	8	Against health and safety restriction	1
In favour of prohibiting outside of 10am - 7pm	6	Against one hour restriction	1
In favour of prohibiting outside underground stations	6	Begging	1
Repetition	6	Brass instruments	1
Against prohibiting busking at all times	5	Compromise	1
Against timing restriction of 10am to 7pm	4	Depends on area	1
Busking on the underground/trains	4	Difference between music and public speaking	1
In favour of PSPO	4	Distance between performers	1
Enforcement concerns	3	Exceptions for special events	1
In favour of prohibiting noisy instruments	3	Hours of operation	1
Other	3	More street entertainers	1
Timings other	3	Targeted at complaint hotspots	1
Against prohibiting amplification	2		

Comments

Against 50 metre restriction

- Busking brings fun and joy to the streets and public spaces. Blanket bans will get rid of the good buskers as well as the minority of problem buskers. The 50m ruling assumes all buskers produce sound - or produce the same level of sound. Some artists are silent,

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others are quiet, therefore the 50m rule could stop some positive activity happening. On the issue of amplification - all instruments can be noisy or quiet regardless of whether they use amplification or not. It depends how you play them and where you play them. Playing with sensitivity to your surroundings is the key. In terms of obstruction - if a busker is causing a genuine obstruction and refusing to move or manage their audience, then there should be a way for the council to deal with this. However, simply banning performance outside tube stations is a clumsy way of tackling the issue. As long as the principles of good busking - being sensitive to the people around you - are being upheld, there is no problem.

Against health and safety restriction

- Obstructing the highway is already an offence, and buskers pose no risk to health and safety.

Against one hour restriction

- Busking in the underground station area that does not result in overcrowding or any health and safety concerns is welcome. One hour to move on is too little, may be two hours if within an underground station area, is reasonable. Tourists quite enjoy it and regulars on weekends.

Against prohibiting amplification

- I can imagine instances where a licence to use microphones/megaphones could be granted e.g. for political demonstrations might be appropriate.
- I have no objection to street entertainers performing outside underground stations as this is preferable to entertainment close to residential areas. I have no objection to them using mild amplification as long as it is not too loud. Sometimes it is pleasant to hear music in the street. However, I would oppose loud instruments such as drums or bagpipes.

Against prohibiting busking at all times

- To be effective, the PSPO should not be a blanket one but targeted to certain sections of streets.
- I want to support lots of these, but many of the statements are too absolute. I understand the need to make general propositions to gauge instinct, but I am loathe to support "prohibitions." The main reason I tend to oppose busking is that I wear headphones on the go. With headphones, I can choose the music. I can choose the volume. I can choose to remove the music altogether. With buskers, I have no choice - the music (often music I don't like) is played at high volumes in crowded spaces. I especially dislike music by escalators inside tube stations, though I know the Council doesn't have that remit.
- Why not prohibit street entertainment/busking/amplified public speaking during normal office hours, say 10 - 4? I would rather support this than a prohibition at all times.
- Busking brings fun and joy to the streets and public spaces. Blanket bans will get rid of the good buskers as well as the minority of problem buskers. The 50m ruling assumes all buskers produce sound - or produce the same level of sound. Some artists are silent, others are quiet, therefore the 50m rule could stop some positive activity happening. On the issue of amplification - all instruments can be noisy or quiet regardless of whether they use amplification or not. It depends how you play them and where you play them. Playing with sensitivity to your surroundings is the key. In terms of obstruction - if a busker is causing a genuine obstruction and refusing to move or manage their audience, then there should be a way for the council to deal with this. However, simply banning

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performance outside tube stations is a clumsy way of tackling the issue. As long as the principles of good busking - being sensitive to the people around you - are being upheld, there is no problem.

- I understand that there should perhaps be limitations, such as timing and distance from other buskers. However, prohibiting busking altogether, or making limitations such that buskers might as well not bother, means that local artists who want to be known for their work, or want to earn money from doing so, are deprived of this opportunity. Busking makes towns more lively and entertaining and allows artists to display their talent and get recognised. It benefits the local music scene as people become more well known and can network with local promoters etc., and is a source of entertainment for the public which should be preserved, not prohibited.

Against restriction around underground stations

- I quite like hearing the buskers outside of Earl's Court Road Tube station. It is not every day and who is performing varies. To me it seems to bring some humanity to the flow of people going through. Most of the musicians and music being played is quite good. However, I can understand some people might be irritated if the volume is too high (I am thinking of the newspaper kiosk worker.)
- Acoustic guitar music inside main entrance would be fine - but I remember when busking was allowed inside tube stations in London musicians auditioned and if the music was of a good standard "musicians" could use the network to entertain the public in safety. As a woman traveling in the evenings I felt re-assured and safe in the tube interchange tunnels by the sound of music from musician buskers.
- I think 7pm is too early a cut-off, 8 or 9pm more appropriate. Plus, the most space is just to the side of Earl's Court Station, which is usually where buskers perform.
- Busking in the underground station area that does not result in overcrowding or any health and safety concerns is welcome. One hour to move on is too little, may be two hours if within an underground station area, is reasonable. Tourists quite enjoy it and regulars on weekends.
- It is uplifting to hear an entertainer at the tube station or just at the entrance.
- It should be noted that the buskers should not be moved away from the South Kensington exit, closer towards the museums as these are office spaces and also get a lot of footfall so could increase crowding.
- Re the immediate area outside underground stations - I commute through South Kensington station, and have never known the buskers there to be a problem in terms of excessive noise, repetitive music, or overcrowding. However, I only pass through this area during my commute, and have no knowledge of it during the day.
- I have no objection to street entertainers performing outside underground stations as this is preferable to entertainment close to residential areas. I have no objection to them using mild amplification as long as it is not too loud. Sometimes it is pleasant to hear music in the street. However, I would oppose loud instruments such as drums or bagpipes.

Against the PSPO

- We should rely on the general criminal law and not introduce yet more local restrictions that are invariably confusing to visitors and almost never enforced.
- People need some freedom but need to understand what is acceptable. Too many rules are not good.

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- Please don't be mean and stop these lovely people, when I hear their sounds it cheers me up.
- Please note I support busking in general it promotes a well-being in people and may encourage visitors to spend. The right of the people for public speaking is basic right in a free society.
- Because once upon a time it was a free country.
- I'm pretty certain that legislation already exists concerning noise and nuisance, obstructing a highway, health and safety. It is important that RBKC not be seen to be over-reaching themselves yet further into public domains where their exercise of power has not so far been benign (at least in the last 30 years), and arguably has no business extending in the first place. My comments relate to North Kensington; Notting Hill, Portobello, Golborne and Ladbrooke Grove. I'm fairly certain that Local Authorities and Metropolitan Police Service are obliged to enforce the law. Why don't you just do that, instead of constantly seeking extra powers that you do not need? I really wish you would poke your greedy authoritarian nose out of matters that just don't concern you. We are not your money-cow, and we are not rural Shropshire.
- Restrictions are impractical and undemocratic. Restricting busking through PSPO is a misuse of legislation. Busking is an unregulated activity.
- I do not agree with the restrictions proposed with regards to PSPOs. As I believe that the existing law and its respective use is adequate to address problems.
- Street entertainment is and should remain free and unrestricted to enhance streets and areas that would otherwise be drab. Keep streets alive.
- Don't make Earl's Court a sterile place. There's no need for any restrictions on street performances here.
- I am an A&R - my job is to get new talent to the labels. I have seen countless talent on the streets of London. One of the bands that became a fixed attraction on Oxford Street is Tommy and Mary - a rock duo using amps and guitars and drums. That band went from busking to being on the soundtrack to Peaky Blinders, being on Steve Lamacq Show and releasing three albums. Performing is their livelihood. At times of constant closures of music venues, allowing construction bosses to ruin cultural spots around the country and wrecking assistance for young creative people (even Thatcher era had benefits for musicians and creatives!) - where do young people go? What can they do to earn a living or work on their skills? The streets are the only place where they still can perform. In the last year I have filled countless forms to oppose closures of venues, I have seen suicides of talented young musicians, I have attended music business conferences where young people beg for somebody to assist them. How many times we need to state that - busking needs assistance not pointless regulations. We cannot penalize for creative people wanting to have a living according to their abilities. Music provides a huge amount of money to the country's GDP and yet we have less and less money, places and opportunities for young people to practice music. How about instead of penalizing and coming up with new ways to restrict street performances we will come with solution to stalking, harassment, and attacks on musicians, have places where they can eat or at least have a warm drink in winter months when busking, come with places where safe street performance is possible? We can do so much better than restrict and criminalize art. I truly hope none of the proposals will be considered, they are counterproductive and downward Orwellian.
- None of these regulations are needed or necessary- this is about problematising street life in what is fast becoming a 'zombie' dormitory for investment properties.

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- Street entertainers are part of the community. Especially in Earl's Court. At least they sometimes drown out the noise of traffic on Earl's Court Road. RBKC and certainly economic factors like super flats being built have already meant a few music venues in the area are closed down instead super unaffordable flats are being built - useless for the community - not say a thing of the fact that Earls Court Road there are four supermarkets selling the same stuff - why? About 3/4 betting shops - why? RBKC needs to wake up - if they think shutting down the musicians is a good idea - if they are not careful they will suck the soul out of this area and people will leave as it will be boring. Please start thinking about the real problems not musicians.

Against timing restriction of 10am to 7pm

- I think 7pm is too early a cut-off, 8 or 9pm more appropriate. Plus, the most space is just to the side of Earl's Court Station, which is usually where buskers perform.
- I oppose the outside of 10am to 7pm because it is not just this time that people are affected. I hear buskers while I am at work.
- Buskers are a nuisance, same as nightmare neighbour. They are also now a cottage industry, where people see an easy way to make money, without actually being serious about being musicians. They should not be allowed to perform in residential areas, especially somewhere like Portobello Road, which is so narrow and residential. Residents should not be expected to have to leave their homes just so that buskers can make money. Buskers are coming to Portobello Road only to make money and don't care whether they are disturbing residents and people who work here, and it's unbelievable that the Council is condoning this. The council needs to find spots for buskers in the borough where they can go without their activities giving rise to a nuisance or disturbance for those in the vicinity and where they do not cause an obstruction. They keyword here is can. The proposal to allow busking between 10am and 7pm is madness. No one in their right mind wants to have noise imposed on them and being subjected to a statutory noise nuisance for nine hours. Buskers should not be allowed to play songs they have not written without paying copyright fees to their authors.
- The second point - times of operation is too strict. I would look at 0800 - 2100 during BST (but not in purely residential areas) and 1000 - 1900 during GMT.

Begging

- Begging for "spare change".

Brass instruments

- Brass instruments should be included with bagpipes and drums whose sound carries for more than 50 metres.

Busking on the underground/trains

- Acoustic guitar music inside main entrance would be fine - but I remember when busking was allowed inside tube stations in London musicians auditioned and if the music was of a good standard "musicians" could use the network to entertain the public in safety. As a woman traveling in the evenings I felt re-assured and safe in the tube interchange tunnels by the sound of music from musician buskers.
- No amplification. To allow amplification means enforcement and the Council simply does not have the manpower to do this. Buskers don't only affect residents, they affect staff in nearby shops/cafes, who cannot escape. I support regulating busking. I should like TfL to regulate buskers in the underground. It can be so loud as to be painful!

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- I want to support lots of these, but many of the statements are too absolute. I understand the need to make general propositions to gauge instinct, but I am loathe to support "prohibitions." The main reason I tend to oppose busking is that I wear headphones on the go. With headphones, I can choose the music. I can choose the volume. I can choose to remove the music altogether. With buskers, I have no choice - the music (often music I don't like) is played at high volumes in crowded spaces. I especially dislike music by escalators inside tube stations, though I know the Council doesn't have that remit.
- Again, people on the tube should be prohibited, this is an area used for transportation and you can't get away. People that only use loudspeakers to get attention, who doesn't perform themselves. That should be prohibited, it's not busking and it's not creative it's begging.

Compromise

- I do not wish to stop street entertainers from performing, but when they are extremely loud and play in the same place all day long then I have to listen to them while I try to work all day long. I would support a compromise that allows them to work while minimising the impact on those of us who don't have the option to walk away. Added to that, on Exhibition Road there is a university (Imperial) and a research institute (Much of the Natural History Museum). Those of us that work in these places sometimes need peace as our jobs require concentration, as do most.

Depends on area

- It is difficult to systematically oppose or support certain proposals as it is dependent on the area. If it is mainly non-residential (e.g. Exhibition Road), there are fewer concerns regarding type of instrument, volume, time, etc. In other places, this would be more problematic.

Designated areas

- Busking etc. only in designated areas?
- Set areas for busking outside Tube stations is a good way to control buskers -see London Transport selected sites on some main tube stations.
- I would like them to avoid places near places where there are offices and places of work. It is a severe problem with my place of work, we cannot have simple meetings or discussions due to the terrible and loud noise of buskers.
- I support particular performance-free zones, for example outside my place of work where the noise and distraction are reducing my performance.
- Buskers should all be licenced and only allowed to "perform" in approved locations and at agreed times.
- Buskers are a nuisance, same as nightmare neighbour. They are also now a cottage industry, where people see an easy way to make money, without actually being serious about being musicians. They should not be allowed to perform in residential areas, especially somewhere like Portobello Road, which is so narrow and residential. Residents should not be expected to have to leave their homes just so that buskers can make money. Buskers are coming to Portobello Road only to make money and don't care whether they are disturbing residents and people who work here, and it's unbelievable that the Council is condoning this. The council needs to find spots for buskers in the borough where they can go without their activities giving rise to a nuisance or disturbance for those in the vicinity and where they do not cause an obstruction. The keyword here is can. The proposal to allow busing between 10am and 7pm is madness. No one in their right mind wants to have noise imposed on them and being subjected to a

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statutory noise nuisance for nine hours. Buskers should not be allowed to play songs they have not written without paying copyright fees to their authors.

- The proposed hours are excessive. It would be a nightmare having buskers around from 10 to 7pm. No one wants to have noise imposed on them for so long. The council needs to find spots for buskers where they won't be able to be heard by residents. We are the ones who live here, not tourists or buskers, so we shouldn't have to listen to some awful noise all day long just because buskers want to make money.
- Just stop busking - they are fine in designated areas - like the underground. But as a resident, I do not need to come home from work or from an evening out to be confronted by live load music - it's terrible sometimes. Plus, all the people that it attracts, the crowds and god help the people who live nearby above the many shops nearby the station.

Difference between music and public speaking

- Again a distinction should be made between music and speaking e.g. political, religious or other types of preaching and other activities e.g. character performers. It is unfair to mix the two as they often have differing impacts. For the above questions I would generally oppose for street performers but support when considering political/religious preaching. What would be good is to have designated sponsored spaces for street performers (with sponsorship contributing to the performer and arts programs) and facilities to support contactless payment. I would like to see better support for performers and mechanisms to support local artists to perform.

Distance between performers

- I would like to hear more live music on our streets but without amplification or backing tracks. The question of distance between performers depends on the location and the type of performance.

Enforcement concerns

- No amplification. To allow amplification means enforcement and the Council simply does not have the manpower to do this. Buskers don't only affect residents, they affect staff in nearby shops/cafes, who cannot escape. I support regulating busking. I should like TfL to regulate buskers in the underground. It can be so loud as to be painful!
- Unless either the Police or Council are prepared to enforce any regulations of buskers this is waffle, currently neither are prepared to.
- None of these are lawful at present. I am critical of the police for ignoring them. They degrade High Street Kensington.

Exceptions for special events

- Exceptions should be made for specific events e.g. The Notting Hill Carnival and any event or festival where residents have been consulted and informed in advance. The 50 metres rule could work but different spaces have different acoustics less might.

Focus on other priorities

- There are more important policing priorities other than street busking and the police and council should focus on these - knife crime, snatch and grabs, vehicle vandalism.
- Street entertainers are part of the community. Especially in Earl's Court. At least they sometimes drown out the noise of traffic on Earl's Court Road. RBKC and certainly economic factors like super flats being built have already meant a few music venues in the area are closed down instead super unaffordable flats are being built - useless for the community - not say a thing of the fact that Earls Court Road there are four supermarkets

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selling the same stuff - why? About 3/4 betting shops - why? RBKC needs to wake up - if they think shutting down the musicians is a good idea - if they are not careful they will suck the soul out of this area and people will leave as it will be boring. Please start thinking about the real problems not musicians.

Hours of operation

- As someone who works in the borough, the hours that affect me most are 9am-5pm, but I appreciate it would be the opposite for residents. I don't want to blanket oppose people being able to busk, but it just shouldn't be at the expense of other people trying to work. Having certain hours during which busking is prohibited in certain places would be good e.g. 9-11.30am, 1.30-4pm as these are key working hours but also leaves buskers key periods e.g. lunchtimes and the footfall of people travelling home, going out for dinner etc. The other issue is definitely loud, piercing instruments amped up and having three songs on loop. That is what causes most misery and distraction when you have to listen to that for hours at a time.

In favour of 50 metre restriction

- Exceptions should be made for specific events e.g. The Notting Hill Carnival and any event or festival where residents have been consulted and informed in advance. The 50 metres rule could work but different spaces have different acoustics less might
- I understand that there should perhaps be limitations, such as timing and distance from other buskers. However, prohibiting busking altogether, or making limitations such that buskers might as well not bother, means that local artists who want to be known for their work, or want to earn money from doing so, are deprived of this opportunity. Busking makes towns more lively and entertaining and allows artists to display their talent and get recognised. It benefits the local music scene as people become more well known and can network with local promoters etc., and is a source of entertainment for the public which should be preserved, not prohibited.

In favour of prohibiting amplification

- I would like to hear more live music on our streets but without amplification or backing tracks. The question of distance between performers depends on the location and the type of performance.
- As said earlier buskers of any kind impede my quiet enjoyment of going about my business in my neighbourhood. Amplified sound hurts my ears and is very unpleasant for me.
- No amplification. To allow amplification means enforcement and the Council simply does not have the manpower to do this. Buskers don't only affect residents, they affect staff in nearby shops/cafes, who cannot escape. I support regulating busking. I should like TfL to regulate buskers in the underground. It can be so loud as to be painful!
- I don't oppose the occasional event but I fully support the prohibition of continuous use of amplifiers and loud music on the street. It's frequently the case at Notting Hill Gate and High Street Ken tube stations. Poor quality music, very repetitive, horribly loud: no interest at all. However, the occasional band playing good music is always a pleasure to hear.
- Unavoidable basic background noise in the streets is already loud, adding to it with high levels of amplified sounds makes the experience of shopping unpleasant and often even painful. I avoid areas if there is amplified music. I already avoid the High Street at certain times when I see groups setting up their speakers. Buskers without

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amplification/amplified backing music may be acceptable if not playing loud annoying or percussive instruments.

- I strongly object to amplification. Residents living near busking 'hot spots' such as underground stations should not have to suffer continuous music or singing.
- Prohibiting amplified noise would be a start.
- Your options are too narrowly drawn. I could tolerate some non-amplified music (e.g. string instruments). However, the routine use of amplification by buskers is in my view grossly intrusive, and spoils my enjoyment of the public realm.
- Regular noise from buskers can be very disruptive to people such as myself who work in nearby offices and labs. Preventing amplification would reduce the level of disturbance. Buskers should only be allowed to play for an hour if they do not repeat songs/pieces within that interval and do not return regularly with the same repertoire, as the repetition is particularly annoying.
- I'm not against busking per se. However, it should not adversely impact the lives of people who live and work in the area. Stopping amplification and restricting timings should help with this.
- I don't want to be a killjoy but many buskers have grown up with huge amplification and that can be physically painful for people who love music but don't want painful head and chest vibrations.
- The use of amplifiers is not crucial. Many instruments are very loud without the use of amplifiers.
- Already done. Busking in busy areas is fine and fun but not amplified!
- The use of amplifiers is the main problem - but aggressive noise directed to creating an impact is related.
- I'm not against buskers. Just against heavily amplified music and totally against amplified speaking, which draws large crowds.
- I am in favour of skilled musicians being able to busk, using acoustic instruments. I am totally against amplification. The former can be enjoyed or ignored according to taste, the latter imposes itself whether one likes it or not. So it is an infringement of liberty. Even in the nineteenth century very loud mechanical instruments (such as barrel organs) were a plague in some parts of central London, so the point is not entirely new. My view about noisy musical instruments is qualified, as these can be enjoyable in small doses.
- Amplification is the problem.
- My support for the above measures has one condition. I would completely ban the use of amplification for voice or instrument. Without amplification, the performers would a. Not disturb residents inside their homes b. Not be able to play extended sets due to the extra exertion required and would therefore perform for shorter periods of time. If the audience on the street liked what they hear they can always stand closer for a louder effect while the disinterested/ unappreciative listener would not have to put up with the noise ad infinitum.
- Continuous noise for residents is a nuisance. I do not mind music as long as it is without amplifier and the performers play well. There are some on guitar down by UKAI in Portobello, and it is a pleasure to hear them. Bagpipes can be ok, but the Bongo man by Notting Hill Gate tube station is a pain.
- I don't mind buskers if they don't use amplifiers
- There is no need to have music amplified, especially in tube stations. The level of noise can be painful.
- I give my support to opposing continuous amplified/unamplified noise particularly in areas that include residential properties. Continuous amplified noise I'm sure must be a mental

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health issue for those living in the area of noise. Also the quality of performance can be so poor that music/singing can hardly be identified as music

- Loud electrified amplified busking can cause much excessive noise for residents, visitors and businesses. In my opinion, street entertainment/busking is not a problem when conducted with acoustic instruments.
- Amplified busking is too loud and invasive and not necessary.
- I am a psychotherapist working at the southern end of Exhibition Road. My work with vulnerable patients is often disturbed (on an almost daily basis) by street performers with amplifiers. We have had opera singers, a man with a clarinet who only knows two songs, mariachi bands, accordion players, a man with a beat box, and various singer/songwriters. Sometimes the amplification feels like we are attending a concert. There can be up to three different buskers in the space between South Kensington tube station and Cromwell Road. This seriously impacts on my work. We all expect some street noise in a central London location but South Ken has become a hub for noisy street performers.
- Streets should be for the use of pedestrian flow, not as platforms for unsolicited people to make money whilst creating appalling and loud noise and disturbance. Some of London's streets are being used inappropriately for illegal gain because of the affluence of the local residents who are rate paying citizens, and/or tourists who are drawn to the area for the same, which has a negative impact. Along with crowds and disturbance this also brings crime. I believe amplified speaking is already illegal on our streets, including the use of megaphones, and this should definitely also be enforced.
- Again, people on the tube should be prohibited, this is an area used for transportation and you can't get away. People that only use loudspeakers to get attention, who doesn't perform themselves. That should be prohibited, it's not busking and it's not creative it's begging.
- Amplification is a problem- increasing sound pollution and building an audience that is more appropriate in a hall for that purpose.
- Amplified music should be banned with immediate effect.
- Amplifiers should be banned but not speaking, singing, or any type of public street entertainment.
- Busking is great. But when amplified it reaches so far and people living and working nearby are constantly interrupted. In warm weather opening windows means it's even louder. It prevents one listening to one's own music or having a quiet peaceful time. If working with people when quiet is important it breaks the ambience. It is also supremely selfish!! We ask people to not play their smart phones loudly even with headphones yet we allow this noise abuse. Let them sing/play without amplifying.
- I have ticked all of the above, because I am desperate for protection of any sort. But please, please prohibit all busking and street entertainment altogether. If that is not possible then please ban all amplification of any kind, and the use of drums/bagpipes at all times. If busking must be permitted, please limit it to unamplified voice and unamplified instrument only. The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety. Please offer some protection to residents.

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- Unamplified busking - other than drums, trumpets, bagpipes - is not usually a problem. Small ensembles - string quartet, jazz group - are often a pleasure to listen to.

In favour of prohibiting busking at all times

- I support all restrictions that could help address the problems with buskers, but most ideally would be a complete restriction at all times.
- Although I like all sort of music and appreciate the talent and the courage of people playing music in the streets, I feel that the streets are busy, noisy and polluted enough and that music should not be forced onto people, but played where people choose to go and listen to it.
- I work in an office block overlooking Exhibition Rd, SW7. Around 20 of us working in that block are at our wits' end after years of daily loud and repetitive steel drum and saxophone music from buskers on the street immediately overlooked by our offices. We wear earplugs, go and work in another room if available, work at home where possible. From our point of view, it is precisely *during* office hours that we would like the buskers banned - i.e. 9 am - 5 pm. What happens outside those hours doesn't bother us (though we recognise it may bother people in residential areas).
- The area around South Kensington station is already so intensely crowded, especially during rush hours, to have any other encumbrances such as street musicians, frequently locating themselves amidst the traffic flow, adds significantly to the crowding in this area. No street musicians, with or without amplifiers should be allowed in this area. Furthermore, just when the weather is fine and one wishes to enjoy a coffee, drink or meal in one of the outdoors along the Exhibition Road, the street musicians playing in this area frequently spoil any enjoyment by making it difficult to speak with friends, or by playing unappealing (or grating) music.
- I've lived by Notting Hill Gate for over 30 years. In the past all we had was the man who occasionally, usually during the carnival or at Christmas, played the steel drums in the covered area under Campden Hill Tower. Now, for the past year or so, we've been beset by a legion of truly awful beggars trying to play music loudly, badly, repetitively, on accordions, drums, and even a small "ensemble", often amplified - the worst is a clarinettist who only half-knows one tune, the theme to Doctor Zhivago, and plays it constantly at full volume. Most of them are obviously from an eastern European gang. Notting Hill Gate is too busy and too small, certainly the areas by the tube exits, to support such non-entertainment - it is not suitable for the sort of regulated busking you see in Covent Garden and Leicester Square. They must all be removed and kept away.
- Prohibit from Portobello Market street traders' area.
- I would strongly support a blanket ban on musical instruments which play above background noise level between 10 and 7. Loud musical instruments (typically steel drum and saxophone), amplified backing tracks, and amplified instruments have rendered my office largely unusable as a workspace. I am unable to think, use the phone, or have meetings.
- Buskers should not go anywhere near residential accommodation. I've lived here for more than 20 years and the area near Portobello Road is just a nightmare now. It's so noisy. The council needs to protect residents from this nuisance. I don't want buskers anywhere between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Grove. We can hear them from all that stretch.
- I would like to clarify my first answer. I think there are certain locations where an absolute ban on busking at all times is required, but I would not say this was true of ALL locations in the Borough.

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- I have ticked all of the above, because I am desperate for protection of any sort. But please, please prohibit all busking and street entertainment altogether. If that is not possible then please ban all amplification of any kind, and the use of drums/bagpipes at all times. If busking must be permitted, please limit it to unamplified voice and unamplified instrument only. The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety. Please offer some protection to residents.
- I support motions to stop busking as this area is not suitable for this purpose.
- Residential neighbourhoods Are not intended for street entertainment of any kind.
- There should be no busking at all within residential districts or in close proximity to residential districts. Busking outside tube stations next to main roads is dangerous as crowds can amass and pedestrians cannot pass by and may be knocked into the road.
- Just stop busking - they are fine in designated areas - like the underground. But as a resident, I do not need to come home from work or from an evening out to be confronted by live load music - it's terrible sometimes. Plus, all the people that it attracts, the crowds and god help the people who live nearby above the many shops nearby the station.
- Prohibiting busking outside 10 am to 7pm implies it is OK 10-7pm. In some locations busking will never be appropriate.

In favour of prohibiting noisy instruments

- Unavoidable basic background noise in the streets is already loud, adding to it with high levels of amplified sounds makes the experience of shopping unpleasant and often even painful. I avoid areas if there is amplified music. I already avoid the High Street at certain times when I see groups setting up their speakers. Buskers without amplification/amplified backing music may be acceptable if not playing loud annoying or percussive instruments.
- I have no objection to street entertainers performing outside underground stations as this is preferable to entertainment close to residential areas. I have no objection to them using mild amplification as long as it is not too loud. Sometimes it is pleasant to hear music in the street. However, I would oppose loud instruments such as drums or bagpipes.
- I have ticked all of the above, because I am desperate for protection of any sort. But please, please prohibit all busking and street entertainment altogether. If that is not possible then please ban all amplification of any kind, and the use of drums/bagpipes at all times. If busking must be permitted, please limit it to unamplified voice and unamplified instrument only. The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety. Please offer some protection to residents.

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In favour of prohibiting on health and safety grounds

- Performers in Duke of York's Square often attract sizeable crowds which obstruct the pavement and block pedestrians.
- On a Saturday in Portobello Road, many buskers create a crowd stand in the road, looking and taking photos of the buskers. The crowd are unaware of traffic. I think it is really dangerous. At some time, someone will get hit by a vehicle.

In favour of prohibiting outside of 10am - 7pm

- I presume from the second question, it's inferred that 10 - 7 are times you would impose a PSPO, and I support that.
- I'm not against busking per se. However, it should not adversely impact the lives of people who live and work in the area. Stopping amplification and restricting timings should help with this.
- Why not prohibit street entertainment/busking/amplified public speaking during normal office hours, say 10 - 4? I would rather support this than a prohibition at all times.
- We have a rich creative and diverse community why do you want it to be bland. No noise after 7 pm. Simple rule
- I think that reasonable limits could be put in place in terms of operating hours, but genuinely haven't seen that many buskers to warrant this attention.
- I understand that there should perhaps be limitations, such as timing and distance from other buskers. However, prohibiting busking altogether, or making limitations such that buskers might as well not bother, means that local artists who want to be known for their work, or want to earn money from doing so, are deprived of this opportunity. Busking makes towns more lively and entertaining and allows artists to display their talent and get recognised. It benefits the local music scene as people become more well known and can network with local promoters etc., and is a source of entertainment for the public which should be preserved, not prohibited.

In favour of prohibiting outside underground stations

- Please institute these policies as soon as possible outside Earl's Court Station.
- Musicians at the entrance to Earls Court Station restrict access and egress from the station, causing a health and safety risk and frustrations to those trying to come and go.
- The line has been crossed between busking (street performing) and becoming a public nuisance with amplified music and drumming. I would strongly urge prohibiting performers from being directly outside Underground stations. This causes congestion/overcrowding and is a safety issue encouraging pickpockets.
- Busking outside Earls Court station has resulted in fights for the pitch between buskers and serves to attract drug dealers and drinkers who sit around with the buskers
- Earls Court station is a problem
- My experience is at Earl's Court station and on High Street Kensington. The former is already very busy and with street entertainer it's chaotic. No space to walk etc. Same with High Street Kensington.

In favour of PSPO

- Unlike people who are just passing by, residents cannot escape the loud noise caused by buskers. We applaud RBKC for this positive step.
- In a few years busking has grown from a minor inconvenience to a major problem that is a daily and profound intrusion into the quality of life of South Kensington residents. The mediocrity of performers dressed as clowns and blasting forth tacky music, which is

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constantly repeated, from a giant tuba also shooting out billowing flames, reeking of burning oil, is soul destroying. To conceal this infernal nuisance, it is necessary to constantly play music at a high volume at our home. These street performances also make outside gardens unusable. This is the lowest possible form of entertainment and it must be stopped.

- It is a basic right of the residents to expect some peace and quiet. A time to rest and relax after the challenges of the days living in the city. This basic right has long been forgotten in this corner of the borough. Systems need to be put in place to ensure that all of us can enjoy living in the borough and that residents are protected from loud noise which is more often than not amplified to disproportionate levels.
- I do not oppose buskers, in fact I find them quite entertaining sometimes, but I think there should be noise and location restrictions to avoid them causing annoyance and frustration.

In favour of restricting performances to one hour

- The street entertainers near the station are often excellent musicians and their music is uplifting and even makes my day. The ones along Exhibition Road unfortunately are often not very good at all - it would appear that a few of them monopolise the space however one hour in 24 seems a bit harsh I would agree to one hour and no return for three or four hours however this would not guarantee and improvement just a change.
- Regular noise from buskers can be very disruptive to people such as myself who work in nearby offices and labs. Preventing amplification would reduce the level of disturbance. Buskers should only be allowed to play for an hour if they do not repeat songs/pieces within that interval and do not return regularly with the same repertoire, as the repetition is particularly annoying.

Licensing

- Buskers should all be licenced and only allowed to "perform" in approved locations and at agreed times.
- Why are you only asking about restrictions? What about suggesting help or a licensing scheme as per TfL? Why is this so negative? What about residents who value buskers?

More street entertainers

- I would like to hear more live music on our streets but without amplification or backing tracks. The question of distance between performers depends on the location and the type of performance.

Negative impact of buskers/noise caused

- As said earlier buskers of any kind impede my quiet enjoyment of going about my business in my neighbourhood. Amplified sound hurts my ears and is very unpleasant for me.
- No amplification. To allow amplification means enforcement and the Council simply does not have the manpower to do this. Buskers don't only affect residents, they affect staff in nearby shops/cafes, who cannot escape. I support regulating busking. I should like TfL to regulate buskers in the underground. It can be so loud as to be painful!
- I don't think RBKC has any idea about the negative impact so called buskers have on the residents who live in Kensington High Street. Our mansion block is opposite the Whole Foods store and we are plagued with "buskers" - including an East[ern] European who sprawls across the pavement pretending to be a cripple and playing the same tune on a saxophone over and over again for a minimum of two hours. There are Bulgarian

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accordionists on loud speakers, and numerous electric 'guitarists.' Under British law we residents and council tax payers have a legal right to the quiet enjoyment of homes. Whereas RBKC has bent over backwards to allow people who don't even live in the borough to disturb our lives by "busking" which is little more than begging. We've had enough and it is time RBKC put our interests first. So called "buskers" have no place in Kensington High Street, they impact on residents' lives, impact negatively on businesses and the tourists I've spoken to are shocked this form of musical begging is allowed

- I don't oppose the occasional event but I fully support the prohibition of continuous use of amplifiers and loud music on the street. It's frequently the case at Notting Hill Gate and High Street Ken tube stations. Poor quality music, very repetitive, horribly loud: no interest at all. However, the occasional band playing good music is always a pleasure to hear.
- I want to support lots of these, but many of the statements are too absolute. I understand the need to make general propositions to gauge instinct, but I am loathe to support "prohibitions." The main reason I tend to oppose busking is that I wear headphones on the go. With headphones, I can choose the music. I can choose the volume. I can choose to remove the music altogether. With buskers, I have no choice - the music (often music I don't like) is played at high volumes in crowded spaces. I especially dislike music by escalators inside tube stations, though I know the Council doesn't have that remit.
- I strongly object to amplification. Residents living near busking 'hot spots' such as underground stations should not have to suffer continuous music or singing.
- For years we have suffered intolerably high volume and repetitive buskers just outside our offices that we have to endure most days on Exhibition Road. This negatively affect our wellbeing in the workplace and it leads to stress and is frequently reported as a problem in our health and safety committee meetings. We have tried many local methods (earplugs, headphones) to try to cancel out the noise to basically no effect - the instruments/amps are too loud and repetition of songs is also distressing. As well as being directly affected personally, my team and I spend a lot of time trying to deal with other staff complaining about buskers and this too is leading to inefficiency - we are being pulled away from our core function and as we are public servants, it's a waste of public funds. I would like to see quite stringent enforcements within a set distance of workplaces and residential buildings.
- I think the buskers in the tube tunnel are fine, because they don't impact on people trying to work in the surrounding area. It's the people that are on the street outside our windows that are the problem.
- Work/concentration is often impossible in the offices facing exhibition road due to excessively loud, repetitive, poor quality buskers. Negatively impacts meetings and scientific research being carried out at the Natural History Museum. Has a negative impact on mental health.
- I have been subjected to the steel drummers and the saxophone player on Exhibition Road playing the same repetitious sets at great volume for years. Many of us make our livings trying to write and concentrate but these people make it very difficult.
- I would like them to avoid places near places where there are offices and places of work. It is a severe problem with my place of work, we cannot have simple meetings or discussions due to the terrible and loud noise of buskers.
- I find the performances extremely disturbing in my day to day work - it disrupts meetings, telephone calls and causes severe stress when unable to concentrate. Prohibiting busking outside working hours would have no positive effect on those whose daily work lives are being made very difficult due to loud, repetitive and awful sounding music.

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- The buskers are all very loud, with some using amplification and backing music. Other instruments (steel drums, etc.) are just loud per se. The buskers perform around 20m from my desk and are there all day, strongly increasing my stress levels in the workplace and making some functions in my office (e.g. conference calls, interviews) impossible due to the noise disruption. In addition to noise levels per se, the sheer repetitiveness of the short sets each busker uses is psychologically wearing. There have been times when it's been so disruptive colleagues have been reduced to tears due to the frustration of not being able to concentrate on a task due to the irritation caused by the intrusive nature of the problem.
- I think the PSPO should be put in place if the buskers are disturbing people who live and work around them. The buskers outside the Natural History Museum on Exhibition Road are a very good example- staff working in the Palaeontology building and overlooking Exhibition Road have been very badly affected by the buskers for more than a year now.
- As someone who works in the borough, the hours that affect me most are 9am-5pm, but I appreciate it would be the opposite for residents. I don't want to blanket oppose people being able to busk, but it just shouldn't be at the expense of other people trying to work. Having certain hours during which busking is prohibited in certain places would be good e.g. 9-11.30am, 1.30-4pm as these are key working hours but also leaves buskers key periods e.g. lunchtimes and the footfall of people travelling home, going out for dinner etc. The other issue is definitely loud, piercing instruments amped up and having three songs on loop. That is what causes most misery and distraction when you have to listen to that for hours at a time.
- People should always be allowed to express themselves but not at the cost of someone's sleep.
- I work in the 'east wing' of the Natural History Museum (modern part), and the buskers on Exhibition Road are loud. This is either because their instrument is loud (sax, steel drum, electric guitar) combined with frequently used amplified backing track. The repertoire is also highly repetitive. The hours long acoustic onslaught is highly distracting, and makes work difficult.
- I am a street trader on Portobello Road and the all day noise is unbearable is like going to work in a rock concert they need to be stopped.
- Regular noise from buskers can be very disruptive to people such as myself who work in nearby offices and labs. Preventing amplification would reduce the level of disturbance. Buskers should only be allowed to play for an hour if they do not repeat songs/pieces within that interval and do not return regularly with the same repertoire, as the repetition is particularly annoying.
- I'm not against busking per se. However, it should not adversely impact the lives of people who live and work in the area. Stopping amplification and restricting timings should help with this.
- I am an employee (research scientist) at the Natural History Museum, and my office is at the east end of the Waterhouse Building. As such I am directly exposed to three to four hours a day of busking (there is a metal drummer "performing" as I type this): (1) loud tenor saxophone with a loud boom-box backing track; (2) loud (and tuneless) metal drumming; (3) a singer with a repertoire of four songs. All performers are very repetitive indeed. I find it extremely unsettling, nagging and, at times, stressful. I understand the value of street buskers, but due consideration to the health and working environment of nearby office workers should be more of a priority.
- I don't have a problem with street performers but the problem is when they are not talented musicians and they show up without warning every day. They are considered a pest by local businesses and residents. They should NOT be allowed to show up and

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take advantage of areas with heavy foot traffic (such as outside South Kensington Station and lower Exhibition Road) at any time. People like to be outside on a warm day and are entitled to enjoy the area in peace. They are a painful annoyance.

- The use of amplifiers is the main problem - but aggressive noise directed to creating an impact is related.
- As a resident the noise is constant, buskers play the same thing over and over.
- Amplified music has been making the lives of residents a misery for decades. It also attracts other antisocial behaviour.
- I work in an office block overlooking Exhibition Rd, SW7. Around 20 of us working in that block are at our wits' end after years of daily loud and repetitive steel drum and saxophone music from buskers on the street immediately overlooked by our offices. We wear earplugs, go and work in another room if available, work at home where possible. From our point of view, it is precisely *during* office hours that we would like the buskers banned - i.e. 9 am - 5 pm. What happens outside those hours doesn't bother us (though we recognise it may bother people in residential areas).
- Continuous noise for residents is a nuisance. I do not mind music as long as it is without amplifier and the performers play well. There are some on guitar down by UKAI in Portobello, and it is a pleasure to hear them. Bagpipes can be ok, but the Bongo man by Notting Hill Gate tube station is a pain.
- They are a nuisance.
- The noise is generally a nuisance and it causes extreme crowding around areas that are already crowded due to popular locations such as the South Kensington tube station, the Natural History Museum, and the V&A.
- There are a lot of residents on Thurloe street with small children and it's hard to get them down to sleep in the early evening with loud amplified music performances right outside. The combination of outdoor restaurant seating with street entertainment creates overcrowding with people moving onto the traffic side of the south part of Exhibition Road which is a massive safety risk for both residents and visitors.
- On the square where I live (pedestrianised between of Tavistock Road and Basing Street) it attracts drunks, drug dealers noise and nuisance and anti-social behaviour outside our windows and up in Tavistock Gardens. Wallets and purses of hapless tourists emptied and dropped inside my wall or in the bushes or under the benches in the park. Then the mini festivals that are mounted exacerbates the same. The whole effect becomes one of intimidation and abuse for blocks. Lawless and violent.
- I have lived in the area for over a decade and suffered from the terrible noise between Lancaster Road and Tavistock Square. Buskers are unregulated and the police do not have the time or resources to deal with them. We have also suffered from noise every weekend from Ukai. It is time for this to stop
- The busker on Portobello Road, near the fly over bridge using drums keeps drumming at least five hours which is really annoying with very same tune and ranting passer by potential customers of us.
- The amount of pedestrians is already enormous, with several street performers placed in the area right in front of tube station - adding the many bikes and lingering food delivery services - the place becomes overly congested at times - one cannot even walk straight any more in rush hours.
- In a few years busking has grown from a minor inconvenience to a major problem that is a daily and profound intrusion into the quality of life of South Kensington residents. The mediocrity of performers dressed as clowns and blasting forth tacky music, which is constantly repeated, from a giant tuba also shooting out billowing flames, reeking of

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burning oil, is soul destroying. To conceal this infernal nuisance, it is necessary to constantly play music at a high volume at our home. These street performances also make outside gardens unusable. This is the lowest possible form of entertainment and it must be stopped.

- I you live in an area it can be a non stop problem hearing many buskers in one day. You cannot open windows and often hear the noise even with the windows closed. It is difficult to work or concentrate.
- The area around South Kensington station is already so intensely crowded, especially during rush hours, to have any other encumbrances such as street musicians, frequently locating themselves amidst the traffic flow, adds significantly to the crowding in this area. No street musicians, with or without amplifiers should be allowed in this area. Furthermore, just when the weather is fine and one wishes to enjoy a coffee, drink or meal in one of the outdoors along the Exhibition Road, the street musicians playing in this area frequently spoil any enjoyment by making it difficult to speak with friends, or by playing unappealing (or grating) music.
- Buskers are a nuisance, same as nightmare neighbour. They are also now a cottage industry, where people see an easy way to make money, without actually being serious about being musicians. They should not be allowed to perform in residential areas, especially somewhere like Portobello Road, which is so narrow and residential. Residents should not be expected to have to leave their homes just so that buskers can make money. Buskers are coming to Portobello Road only to make money and don't care whether they are disturbing residents and people who work here, and it's unbelievable that the Council is condoning this. The council needs to find spots for buskers in the borough where they can go without their activities giving rise to a nuisance or disturbance for those in the vicinity and where they do not cause an obstruction. They keyword here is can. The proposal to allow busking between 10am and 7pm is madness. No one in their right mind wants to have noise imposed on them and being subjected to a statutory noise nuisance for nine hours. Buskers should not be allowed to play songs they have not written without paying copyright fees to their authors.
- I would include prohibiting busking in the immediate area of work places. The introduction states that 'the quality of life of residents' is the main concern - but I defy anyone to work efficiently with the often continual high-volume busking that I have to endure throughout my normal working day. This is why I have left the second question unanswered - a confusing question as I strongly oppose busking outside work locations between 10 am and 7pm. Would anyone agreeing to busking be happy to have saxophones and steel drums repeating the same songs throughout the day at their place of work?
- Personally I think street entertaining in my neighbourhood it's an excuse for certain people to make a mess and gather in big groups doing bad things like drinking too much and creating a very bad image to all who we live in the area, it's not beneficial for many many reasons.
- As well as the music the noise can be excessive from a performance from the crowd watching. They move on but the buskers do not.
- Any restriction should include Museum promoters of Natural History Museum guides. Sometimes they are louder than buskers.
- In regard to the specific location in Hans Crescent I am reliably informed that the offices overlooking Hans Crescent find it impossible to hold meetings etc. due to the noise.
- The noise and disturbance to peace inside and out the front of my home.
- I've lived by Notting Hill Gate for over 30 years. In the past all we had was the man who occasionally, usually during the carnival or at Christmas, played the steel drums in the

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covered area under Campden Hill Tower. Now, for the past year or so, we've been beset by a legion of truly awful beggars trying to play music loudly, badly, repetitively, on accordions, drums, and even a small "ensemble", often amplified - the worst is a clarinettist who only half-knows one tune, the theme to Doctor Zhivago, and plays it constantly at full volume. Most of them are obviously from an eastern European gang. Notting Hill Gate is too busy and too small, certainly the areas by the tube exits, to support such non-entertainment - it is not suitable for the sort of regulated busking you see in Covent Garden and Leicester Square. They must all be removed and kept away.

- I would strongly support a blanket ban on musical instruments which play above background noise level between 10 and 7. Loud musical instruments (typically steel drum and saxophone), amplified backing tracks, and amplified instruments have rendered my office largely unusable as a workspace. I am unable to think, use the phone, or have meetings.
- I usually only hear entertainers outside Earls Court Underground station, and only for short time. Sometimes they are so loud that I cannot conduct a conversation.
- I give my support to opposing continuous amplified/unamplified noise particularly in areas that include residential properties. Continuous amplified noise I'm sure must be a mental health issue for those living in the area of noise. Also the quality of performance can be so poor that music/singing can hardly be identified as music
- Buskers should not go anywhere near residential accommodation. I've lived here for more than 20 years and the area near Portobello Road is just a nightmare now. It's so noisy. The council needs to protect residents from this nuisance. I don't want buskers anywhere between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Grove. We can hear them from all that stretch.
- Certain locations have become 'entertainment' spots almost any day of the week, giving little respite to local residents.
- My problem is with busking during working hours and this is excluded in the restriction limiting busking for part of the day above. I work at the Natural History Museum in the Palaeontology wing, Exhibition Rd. Although my office is not adjacent to Exhibition Rd (it is facing the gardens along Cromwell Road) the buskers in Exhibition Rd often have a major impact on my ability to work well. Most of them are very loud and several are very repetitive. Some staff have tried to ask the louder ones to lower the volume but even when asked politely they shrug and carry on. Staff working in the offices along Exhibition Rd suffer even more. When it is really loud I leave my office and try and find work to do elsewhere on site.
- Buskers are always outside my office and the noise never stops. If one busker goes, another one takes their place. This is having a huge effect on my mental health. I cannot work with this environment. The constant noise is unbearable. I cannot concentrate. I cannot work. I have sat at my desk crying because of this noise.
- I live in Denbigh Terrace and the noise of amplified buskers has got worse and worse over the years, I have lived here since 1964 when there was no noise disturbance at all.
- I am a psychotherapist working at the southern end of Exhibition Road. My work with vulnerable patients is often disturbed (on an almost daily basis) by street performers with amplifiers. We have had opera singers, a man with a clarinet who only knows two songs, mariachi bands, accordion players, a man with a beat box, and various singer/songwriters. Sometimes the amplification feels like we are attending a concert. There can be up to three different buskers in the space between South Kensington tube station and Cromwell Road. This seriously impacts on my work. We all expect some street noise in a central London location but South Ken has become a hub for noisy street performers.

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- In Thurloe Street there is a lot of foot traffic/cyclists etc. to and from the museums. The noise from buskers is so intrusive at times that we have to close our windows and shutters in order to conduct business. This is restricting the fresh air and light.
- I run my business from offices above a commercial premises on Portobello Road and the noise affects the operation of the business. Allowing busking during daytime e.g. 10am to 7pm, may benefit residential dwellings during the evening but businesses will continue to suffer. There is an assumption that the upper floors above retail/commercial premises on main roads are in residential use, this is not the case. As central government funding to Councils will reduce in the future, local authorities will seek income from business rates and other sources of income. However, businesses may move from boroughs that do not protect them from disruption to their daily operation by buskers.
- Currently every Saturday my market stall at Portobello street is being affected with buskers being so loud with electric amplified speakers that I'm unable to communicate with potential customers. This is affecting my weekly takings and market stall around me.
- Busking outside Earls Court station has resulted in fights for the pitch between buskers and serves to attract drug dealers and drinkers who sit around with the buskers
- Some buskers are thoughtful and only play for a limited time acoustically. Others seem selfish and play for long periods of time. Although the sound of a badly tuned and repetitively played steel pan is a nightmare.
- I do not wish to stop street entertainers from performing, but when they are extremely loud and play in the same place all day long then I have to listen to them while I try to work all day long. I would support a compromise that allows them to work while minimising the impact on those of us who don't have the option to walk away. Added to that, on Exhibition Road there is a university (Imperial) and a research institute (Much of the Natural History Museum). Those of us that work in these places sometimes need peace as our jobs require concentration, as do most.
- Streets should be for the use of pedestrian flow, not as platforms for unsolicited people to make money whilst creating appalling and loud noise and disturbance. Some of London's streets are being used inappropriately for illegal gain because of the affluence of the local residents who are rate paying citizens, and/or tourists who are drawn to the area for the same, which has a negative impact. Along with crowds and disturbance this also brings crime. I believe amplified speaking is already illegal on our streets, including the use of megaphones, and this should definitely also be enforced.
- It should be noted that buskers can and do cause noise nuisance even without amplification. The more singers in a band (such as A Capella groups) the greater the nuisance.
- I have been living with daily amplified busking near my flat for many years and I can't take it anymore. I am stressed, angry and tired.
- I have ticked all of the above, because I am desperate for protection of any sort. But please, please prohibit all busking and street entertainment altogether. If that is not possible then please ban all amplification of any kind, and the use of drums/bagpipes at all times. If busking must be permitted, please limit it to unamplified voice and unamplified instrument only. The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely. The buskers and the crowds who listen to them are often aggressive to local residents, it is intimidating to a single woman like myself. And because the regular buskers recognise residents, and often make

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derogatory comments about us over their amplification systems, I can no longer walk in my neighbourhood without anxiety. Please offer some protection to residents.

- I live relatively near Earl's Court Station and we are forced to endure loud repetitive music which infiltrates the walls/windows of our house. There is no respite from it - and such performances are frequently well into the night - to midnight and beyond. In the morning it can be from as early as 8.00 a.m. The quality is dismal - most is amplified and there is no consideration whatsoever shown towards nearby residents.
- It is too noisy that we can't talk to someone next to you, it is very annoying.
- Many people increasingly work from home, so the timings limit is of very little help to protecting the sanity of residents who are not heading out during the day.
- Noise from busking and other sources have detrimental impact on my health
- People living or working nearby cannot get away from the noise, even if considered of good quality by some it is still continuous and repetitive. Some residents work from home and need to concentrate, others work at night and need to sleep during the day and some people are disabled or elderly and cannot get out to get a break from it or ill or even terminally ill, in pain and the noise just adds to the discomfort. Sometimes even TV's and phones cannot be heard in one's own home when the busking is very loud even when windows are closed in hot weather. Not everyone has air conditioning. Busking is fine on underground walkways as one walks past and leaves it behind. Not so if living or working nearby. Also sound travels further on hard surfaces and also rises as can be witnessed when opening a window on a high floor of a hotel. The traffic noise from below comes rushing up. The Govt's medical officer of health has reported on the impact on health from noise pollution. I live on Bankside in Southwark and am driven to distraction by the noisy repetitive busking here so write from 10 years of bitter experience. Buskers continue to play at very loud levels even after being asked to reduce the volume. They insist on using amplification to attract a larger crowd for donations. When at ground level the sound is often not so loud as in the flats but one cannot convince buskers of that. It is so hot I need the windows open but it would be impossible to regulate any restrictions to weather or time of year or day as too costly and difficult to regulate for specifics and in my experience most buskers ignore those anyway. The no busking signs in front of our flats are totally ignored.
- There should be no busking at all within residential districts or in close proximity to residential districts. Busking outside tube stations next to main roads is dangerous as crowds can amass and pedestrians cannot pass by and may be knocked into the road.
- Just stop busking - they are fine in designated areas - like the underground. But as a resident, I do not need to come home from work or from an evening out to be confronted by live load music - it's terrible sometimes. Plus, all the people that it attracts, the crowds and god help the people who live nearby above the many shops nearby the station.
- In the old days the Police moved problematical buskers on. Not now. They are a serious nuisance, particularly to housebound residents.

Other

- Buskers already play inside the Knightsbridge tube entrance. Bagpipes constant almost every day. Often two buskers at either end of the tube entrance, and can be three buskers simultaneously in the plaza at the east side of Harrods. All amplified with backing tracks. Cause pavement blockage.
- My comments are based on a supposition of reasonable adjustments.
- Opposition to prohibition based depends on circumstances.

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Poor quality

- The proposal states that we have talent but the repeat of Jiggle bells on steel drums over and over again, or an "opera singer" singling the same song, even if for a limited time is not "talent" but abuse. Kensington and Chelsea is not the world's biggest talent platform.
- The street entertainers near the station are often excellent musicians and their music is uplifting and even makes my day. The ones along Exhibition Road unfortunately are often not very good at all - it would appear that a few of them monopolise the space however one hour in 24 seems a bit harsh I would agree to one hour and no return for three or four hours however this would not guarantee and improvement just a change.
- I don't have a problem with street performers but the problem is when they are not talented musicians and they show up without warning every day. They are considered a pest by local businesses and residents. They should NOT be allowed to show up and take advantage of areas with heavy foot traffic (such as outside South Kensington Station and lower Exhibition Road) at any time. People like to be outside on a warm day and are entitled to enjoy the area in peace. They are a painful annoyance.
- I've lived by Notting Hill Gate for over 30 years. In the past all we had was the man who occasionally, usually during the carnival or at Christmas, played the steel drums in the covered area under Campden Hill Tower. Now, for the past year or so, we've been beset by a legion of truly awful beggars trying to play music loudly, badly, repetitively, on accordions, drums, and even a small "ensemble", often amplified - the worst is a clarinettist who only half-knows one tune, the theme to Doctor Zhivago, and plays it constantly at full volume. Most of them are obviously from an eastern European gang. Notting Hill Gate is too busy and too small, certainly the areas by the tube exits, to support such non-entertainment - it is not suitable for the sort of regulated busking you see in Covent Garden and Leicester Square. They must all be removed and kept away.
- I give my support to opposing continuous amplified/unamplified noise particularly in areas that include residential properties. Continuous amplified noise I'm sure must be a mental health issue for those living in the area of noise. Also the quality of performance can be so poor that music/singing can hardly be identified as music
- If the musicians/singers are good then it is great to listen to, but some buskers shouldn't be allowed out!
- Some buskers are thoughtful and only play for a limited time acoustically. Others seem selfish and play for long periods of time. Although the sound of a badly tuned and repetitively played steel pan is a nightmare.
- The issue is not the level of music but the ability of those who are playing!

Positive comments about street entertainment/busking

- Busking in the underground station area that does not result in overcrowding or any health and safety concerns is welcome. One hour to move on is too little, may be two hours if within an underground station area, is reasonable. Tourists quite enjoy it and regulars on weekends.
- Speaking only on behalf of Earl's Court where we do not have much street entertainment, so I am rather pleased with the few performers that we attract to our area.
- The unexpected introduction of music, whatever the quality, enhances my day.
- I believe that Exhibition Road and the area around the museums and galleries are public areas and street performance serves to enhance the visitor experience.
- The street entertainers near the station are often excellent musicians and their music is uplifting and even makes my day. The ones along Exhibition Road unfortunately are often not very good at all - it would appear that a few of them monopolise the space

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however one hour in 24 seems a bit harsh I would agree to one hour and no return for three or four hours however this would not guarantee and improvement just a change.

- Already done. Busking in busy areas is fine and fun but not amplified!
- Continuous noise for residents is a nuisance. I do not mind music as long as it is without amplifier and the performers play well. There are some on guitar down by UKAI in Portobello, and it is a pleasure to hear them. Bagpipes can be ok, but the Bongo man by Notting Hill Gate tube station is a pain.
- Please don't be mean and stop these lovely people, when I hear their sounds it cheers me up.
- Inner city locations can tolerate a certain level of noise and are enlivened by busking, etc. even close to underground stations and outside dining.
- Portobello has always had a history and close connection with music and entertainment. It's easy to forget the history when trying to appease new residents who want the benefits of living in this area without accepting some of the history connected with it.
- Again a distinction should be made between music and speaking e.g. political, religious or other types of preaching and other activities e.g. character performers. It is unfair to mix the two as they often have differing impacts. For the above questions I would generally oppose for street performers but support when considering political/religious preaching. What would be good is to have designated sponsored spaces for street performers (with sponsorship contributing to the performer and arts programs) and facilities to support contactless payment. I would like to see better support for performers and mechanisms to support local artists to perform.
- Busking brings fun and joy to the streets and public spaces. Blanket bans will get rid of the good buskers as well as the minority of problem buskers. The 50m ruling assumes all buskers produce sound - or produce the same level of sound. Some artists are silent, others are quiet, therefore the 50m rule could stop some positive activity happening. On the issue of amplification - all instruments can be noisy or quiet regardless of whether they use amplification or not. It depends how you play them and where you play them. Playing with sensitivity to your surroundings is the key. In terms of obstruction - if a busker is causing a genuine obstruction and refusing to move or manage their audience, then there should be a way for the council to deal with this. However, simply banning performance outside tube stations is a clumsy way of tackling the issue. As long as the principles of good busking - being sensitive to the people around you - are being upheld, there is no problem.
- Busking musicians add a vibrancy to our borough which would be missed.
- I am an A&R - my job is to get new talent to the labels. I have seen countless talent on the streets of London. One of the bands that became a fixed attraction on Oxford Street is Tommy and Mary - a rock duo using amps and guitars and drums. That band went from busking to being on the soundtrack to Peaky Blinders, being on Steve Lamacq Show and releasing three albums. Performing is their livelihood. At times of constant closures of music venues, allowing construction bosses to ruin cultural spots around the country and wrecking assistance for young creative people (even Thatcher era had benefits for musicians and creatives!) - where do young people go? What can they do to earn a living or work on their skills? The streets are the only place where they still can perform. In the last year I have filled countless forms to oppose closures of venues, I have seen suicides of talented young musicians, I have attended music business conferences where young people beg for somebody to assist them. How many times we need to state that - busking needs assistance not pointless regulations. We cannot penalize for creative people wanting to have a living according to their abilities. Music provides a huge amount of money to the country's GDP and yet we have less and less

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money, places and opportunities for young people to practice music. How about instead of penalizing and coming up with new ways to restrict street performances we will come with solution to stalking, harassment, and attacks on musicians, have places where they can eat or at least have a warm drink in winter months when busking, come with places where safe street performance is possible? We can do so much better than restrict and criminalize art. I truly hope none of the proposals will be considered, they are counterproductive and downward Orwellian.

- Music can make Earl's Court cool, if we give them the right space to occupy.
- Street entertainers are part of the community. Especially in Earl's Court. At least they sometimes drown out the noise of traffic on Earl's Court Road. RBKC and certainly economic factors like super flats being built have already meant a few music venues in the area are closed down instead super unaffordable flats are being built - useless for the community - not say a thing of the fact that Earls Court Road there are four supermarkets selling the same stuff - why? About 3/4 betting shops - why? RBKC needs to wake up - if they think shutting down the musicians is a good idea - if they are not careful they will suck the soul out of this area and people will leave as it will be boring. Please start thinking about the real problems not musicians.

Repetition

- The proposal states that we have talent but the repeat of Jiggle bells on steel drums over and over again, or an "opera singer" singling the same song, even if for a limited time is not "talent" but abuse. Kensington and Chelsea is not the world's biggest talent platform.
- Prohibit repetition of the same 2 songs over and over and over again for hours.
- The buskers are all very loud, with some using amplification and backing music. Other instruments (steel drums, etc.) are just loud per se. The buskers perform around 20m from my desk and are there all day, strongly increasing my stress levels in the workplace and making some functions in my office (e.g. conference calls, interviews) impossible due to the noise disruption. In addition to noise levels per se, the sheer repetitiveness of the short sets each busker uses is psychologically wearing. There have been times when it's been so disruptive colleagues have been reduced to tears due to the frustration of not being able to concentrate on a task due to the irritation caused by the intrusive nature of the problem.
- As someone who works in the borough, the hours that affect me most are 9am-5pm, but I appreciate it would be the opposite for residents. I don't want to blanket oppose people being able to busk, but it just shouldn't be at the expense of other people trying to work. Having certain hours during which busking is prohibited in certain places would be good e.g. 9-11.30am, 1.30-4pm as these are key working hours but also leaves buskers key periods e.g. lunchtimes and the footfall of people travelling home, going out for dinner etc. The other issue is definitely loud, piercing instruments amped up and having three songs on loop. That is what causes most misery and distraction when you have to listen to that for hours at a time.
- Regular noise from buskers can be very disruptive to people such as myself who work in nearby offices and labs. Preventing amplification would reduce the level of disturbance. Buskers should only be allowed to play for an hour if they do not repeat songs/pieces within that interval and do not return regularly with the same repertoire, as the repetition is particularly annoying.
- The busker on Portobello Road, near the fly over bridge using drums keeps drumming at least five hours which is really annoying with very same tune and ranting passer by potential customers of us.

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Survey

- Do people know what a PSPO is? Do they know that it criminalises certain types of behaviour, for certain people, at certain times? Do they know what legislation is currently on the books that can deal with excessive noise or obstructions? If not, how can they reasonably answer these questions? 2nd, by setting the terms of the questions, you are already leading people towards the conclusion you want. It's a terrible way of getting public opinion. For example: What if people would be okay with 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.? What if people don't care what the instruments are, as long as they are kept below a reasonable decibel limit? Why don't you give any allowance for where the busking takes place? Do all regions of Kensington and Chelsea need exactly the same legislation? Are they all equally loud, residential and touristy? What do you mean by highway obstruction here? Because aren't ALL street performers, and aren't ALL crowds, an obstruction? How would you legislate to ban obstructions without banning buskers? What is the immediate area outside tube stations? Are we talking about 5m? 10? And why should these noisy, busy areas be more harshly legislated than other areas?
- No further comment but this is a really badly worded question.

Targeted at complaint hotspots

- To be effective, the PSPO should not be a blanket one but targeted to certain sections of streets.

Timings other

- None of your options above include prohibiting them during office hours. This is the key problem I have. I am constantly disturbed during office hours by multiple excessively noisy/repetitive buskers. Certain noisy instruments (saxophones, steel drums) played repetitively, for extended periods (2+ hours), on a daily basis, with additional amplifiers/backing tracks should be prohibited at all times, but specifically working and sleeping hours.
 - The times that it bothers me the most are between 9am and noon and between 1pm and 2pm. If we knew that buskers were going to play between 3pm and 4pm or between 4pm and 5pm we could at least plan our day around that.
 - One hour of hearing the same music/song is too long. 30 minutes should be ample with the opportunity of returning to the same spot after, say, two hours.
-

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Q5) If you are against the introduction of a PSPO to help the control street entertainment and busking, why is this?

Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Not needed/ street entertainment does not cause an issue	34	Survey	2
Against regulation/or against the use of a PSPO	24	Begging	1
Benefits of music/entertainment	19	Carnival	1
In favour of PSPO	13	Cost	1
Take other measures	12	Focus on other things	1
Issues caused by busking/buskers	5	Indifferent towards a PSPO	1
Enforcement	4	Other issues in the area	1
Designated areas	2	Poor quality	1
Don't know what a PSPO is	2	Timings	1
Support performers	2		

Comments

Against regulation/or against the use of a PSPO

- Don't need a sledge hammer to crack a nut.
- a) this whole questionnaire is extremely biased. The Council needs to make the case for a PSPO, not ask why it should not be introduced b) street entertainment and busking are a lively and pleasant part of town life c) we need less regulation, not more, of street activity
- I've never come across any problems in this area, and in general am not in favour of more regulations.
- Because we live in a bit of a "Big Brother" society. We don't need more control around, I think we already have enough cameras, prohibitions, restrictions to follow.
- We should rely on the general criminal law and not introduce yet more local restrictions that confuse visitors and are rarely enforced.
- Don't we have enough laws already?
- Because I would prefer not to live in a fascist state.
- If the busking is only at weekends or occasional it's okay so too much restriction will not be good. The carnival, in the meantime is EXCESSIVE. What are you doing about that?
- Fear of too much regulation and petty minded implementation.
- It feels like too blunt an instrument. There already exist ways to deal with nuisances on the street.
- Please first explain what legislation is currently on the books, and why you don't feel it is sufficient to tackle the issue of busking. Again, do people know what a PSPO is, exactly? Lord Taylor said this in the House of Lords, on the subject: "The Government are certainly not seeking to restrict reasonable behaviour and activity, and we do not believe that these powers do. Live music and street entertainment play an important role in community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that is enjoyed by all". Why is a paragraph like this nowhere to be seen in your consultation? Lady Williams of Trafford said: "The Government are clear that appropriate busking can enrich a community's

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quality of life and generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by many people". You don't once mention this. You say you "celebrate the vibrancy" of the streets. But this says nothing about quality of life. Is a leading survey like this even legal as a way of getting responses from the public?

- There is plenty of legislation already available to deal with any problems. A PSPO creates a hostile environment and actually encourages complaints.
- Buskers have as much right to use public spaces as anyone else. PSPOs are supposed to be used when individuals are behaving in an offensive or abusive/violent manner. Busking is none of those things. Inappropriate action
- Assigning a single PSPO to control street entertainment is not conducive to fostering diverse street culture. If the ability of an act to continue performing on the streets is heavily influence by a single opinion, this is likely to have an extremely restrictive effect on street entertainment. There are already sufficient checks and balances in place to deal with acts which are, objectively, nuisances.
- I believe existing laws when applied fairly can be used to deal with any problems associated with busking. This will only penalise the least able and those excluded from society will be further excluded. I say this as a street performer who has played Portobello Road for the past four years Saturday mornings and as a former resident of the borough in the 1990s and though this scheme does not implicitly affect me in Portobello area as outlined it does in others namely Exhibition Road. I understand the problems and frustrations that can be caused and can only sympathise with residents who are adversely affected however I also sympathise with the general public who clearly love street entertainment, street entertainers themselves and the wider community that benefits economically from presence of street musicians. I have had various problems playing in the borough which I am not going to elaborate on here but I have had far more successes than failures and the welcome that was extended to me by many on Portobello market I will never forget. I am self-employed for past ten years and had to stop playing Camden due to licensing on a matter of principle and if these restrictions are imposed I will have no choice but to make alternative arrangements within or outside the borough. Overall it is about give-and-take, reasonableness and a common sense approach to everybody's rights and responsibilities which on the whole has enabled me to play outside Starbucks Saturdays without too much trouble and when advised of a problem by a resident/official to do with noise or crowd I have tried to act sympathetically and responsibly whilst I also try to not play all the time in the same place all the time to avoid problems in the first place. I think if you had a 'buskers code' and listed potential problem areas it would go a long way to advising those that for whatever reason do not act in this way and would overall help solve any problems and alleviate the situation. Thank you for this opportunity to put my viewpoint forward and if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. [Name given]
- If a busker is being antisocial, drunk on drugs or maybe just too loud you have laws already to stop this action.
- As stated in my previous post - why is there drive to criminalize art and nothing is being done to help and secure proper working conditions for street performers. Most musicians and artists on the streets earn their living (and it's a very small amount at that) performing on the streets. With barely any protection. Please come down to any music conference Indie Label Market, Amplify, IndieCon - and speak to them. It's enough to keep you up at nights.
- Because we want to have a diverse and vibrant community. Buskers are part of this.
- Heavy handed response. There are already informal, more flexible and cost effective ways of controlling busking (e.g. Busker's Code and normal noise enforcement). Busking

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should be encouraged as it provides a much needed chance for musicians and performers starting out to cut their teeth, and also animates public spaces. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater because of a few bad eggs!

- I don't know what it would entail but I am not in favour of persecuting people trying to earn an honest living
- I think busking is a valuable cultural asset for London and also key to a thriving music scene. The Royal Borough needs to remain vibrant (and sometimes noisy!) in its public realm, otherwise it will lose its attractiveness. We need to be proud of street entertainment. Buskers' Code seems sufficient to regulate busking, I don't think it needs "control" while the borough can make sure to protect busking spaces on public land.
- Street performers are one of the few joys left in London. I always enjoy watching shows, even shows I've seen numerous times.
- The freedom of performers and artists to make use of our and their streets is a value that must be protected.
- This suggests that buskers are a nuisance and will inevitably then give the public this same impression, when this is not the case. Street entertainers should not be treated like menaces or criminals.

Begging

- I feel there is a need to control begging, passive begging for money. I feel we should encourage entertainers, performers, singers and musicians.

Benefits of music/entertainment

- Music cheers people up and makes them smile. I cannot see a downside.
- a) this whole questionnaire is extremely biased. The Council needs to make the case for a PSPO, not ask why it should not be introduced b) street entertainment and busking are a lively and pleasant part of town life c) we need less regulation, not more, of street activity
- I believe that busking around the Albertopolis area adds to the cultural appeal and experience of the area
- It is a great asset to attract tourists to this area. People, especially children, love the music and various acts on show. They engage with the performers and seem to enjoy every aspect of the shows. It provides valuable exposure for the entertainers themselves and provides an extra source of income for the entertainers themselves. Perhaps, instead of trying to restrict people's activities in a public space, we should look to engage with the entertainers and help them develop their acts, providing them with a platform for their own development and improving our interactions with street-level activities beyond the building limits of the museum.
- It isn't necessary. I've never been bothered by busking - in fact, the quality of some of the musicianship is beyond question.
- Because part of what makes Kensington and Chelsea and Ladbroke Grove in particular is the fact that it is such a diverse and free area when walking down Portobello you can almost feel as if you are not in the heart of London. The street performers are a part of the community and make the area what it is so famous and loved.
- I value busking. This sounds like an anxiety-ridden bit of unnecessary busy bodying.
- I enjoy listening to buskers, it makes the streets come to life. However, your question is unclear - and leading as it appears to assume support for PSPOs. And according to your previous questions there are various types of PSPOs so how do we know whether we support them? We don't know what you're proposing!

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- The street entertainment is great as it helps driving a good level of footfall to the local area creating a wonderful atmosphere. It might be worth imposing certain restrictions (Noise, Location, Equipment...) to ensure the local residents are not disturbed.
- Please first explain what legislation is currently on the books, and why you don't feel it is sufficient to tackle the issue of busking. Again, do people know what a PSPO is, exactly? Lord Taylor said this in the House of Lords, on the subject: "The Government are certainly not seeking to restrict reasonable behaviour and activity, and we do not believe that these powers do. Live music and street entertainment play an important role in community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that is enjoyed by all". Why is a paragraph like this nowhere to be seen in your consultation? Lady Williams of Trafford said: "The Government are clear that appropriate busking can enrich a community's quality of life and generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by many people". You don't once mention this. You say you "celebrate the vibrancy" of the streets. But this says nothing about quality of life. Is a leading survey like this even legal as a way of getting responses from the public?
- I believe existing laws when applied fairly can be used to deal with any problems associated with busking. This will only penalise the least able and those excluded from society will be further excluded. I say this as a street performer who has played Portobello Road for the past four years Saturday mornings and as a former resident of the borough in the 1990s and though this scheme does not implicitly affect me in Portobello area as outlined it does in others namely Exhibition Road. I understand the problems and frustrations that can be caused and can only sympathise with residents who are adversely affected however I also sympathise with the general public who clearly love street entertainment, street entertainers themselves and the wider community that benefits economically from presence of street musicians. I have had various problems playing in the borough which I am not going to elaborate on here but I have had far more successes than failures and the welcome that was extended to me by many on Portobello market I will never forget. I am self-employed for past ten years and had to stop playing Camden due to licensing on a matter of principle and if these restrictions are imposed I will have no choice but to make alternative arrangements within or outside the borough. Overall it is about give-and-take, reasonableness and a common sense approach to everybody's rights and responsibilities which on the whole has enabled me to play outside Starbucks Saturdays without too much trouble and when advised of a problem by a resident/official to do with noise or crowd I have tried to act sympathetically and responsibly whilst I also try to not play all the time in the same place all the time to avoid problems in the first place. I think if you had a 'buskers code' and listed potential problem areas it would go a long way to advising those that for whatever reason do not act in this way and would overall help solve any problems and alleviate the situation. Thank you for this opportunity to put my viewpoint forward and if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. [Name given]
- Street entertainment is welcome by most people and very appreciated. Keep streets live!
- I feel there is a need to control begging, passive begging for money. I feel we should encourage entertainers, performers, singers and musicians.
- I value the buskers and the little bit of joy they bring to RBKCs empty and miserable streets. It also occupies the irritating tourists. Why are we not taxing the tourists to pay for the amenities they use?
- See all of my other comments - one of the main reasons I have lived in RBKC for over 30 years is the vibrant street life. If I was bothered by street performers I would move to Basingstoke (or some other suburban lifeless enclave) - RBKC is in the centre of a global city!

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- Street art keeps the area vibrant. It creates community. It encourages people on the streets to look and listen to their environment. It is a palliative to atomism and sterility.
- Street performers are one of the few joys left in London. I always enjoy watching shows, even shows I've seen numerous times.
- The freedom of performers and artists to make use of our and their streets is a value that must be protected.
- These rules read as if they've been designed to prohibit busking, without recognising that a lot of busking is positive and beneficial for the area and for the artists doing it. Blanket bans are a blunt tool. A better approach would be to make a concerted effort to show that the council support and encourage good busking, support and encourage talented performers who contribute to the area in a positive way. To devise any scheme with supportive performers. And to then only penalise those performers that behave irresponsibly. At a time when the cost of education is increasing and society is becoming more divided, busking is a wonderful way for people with talent to share and grown their skills and give pleasure to others, without cost being a barrier. Street performance is an important income stream for many artists. It is an important platform for artists to reach their audience and earn a living - and many very successful artists like Ed Sheeran, Pierce Brosnan, Eddie Izzard and KT Tunstall have been regular buskers. Busking is an important cultural activity that London should get behind not ban. Our reputation as a centre for arts and creativity is because we support and nurture talent and give talented people a platform.

Carnival

- If the busking is only at weekends or occasional it's okay so too much restriction will not be good. The carnival, in the meantime is excessive. What are you doing about that?

Cost

- It will be another added expense that we the residents will have to bear in higher Council Taxes.

Designated areas

- I think it would be useful if limited to small areas but it would be a shame if all the buskers had to go - life is hard enough and some of them genuinely brighten some peoples' day.
- I think that a PSPO is needed but the hours of restriction should not be as long as proposed, for example it could be from 10-12, then from 2-5 pm. Buskers are trying to gain money to live with dignity. Other idea is that there could be an area for buskers, for example around the exit of the museum lane. Most importantly, the museum can also improve the noise isolation in the buildings/offices affected, this area is in general very noisy. Thanks for trying to mitigate this issue.

Don't know what a PSPO is

- Don't know what a PSPO is.
- Sorry, I am not entirely sure what PSPO is.

Enforcement

- It's the enforcement rather than existence of any, that matters.
- The introduction of approved points where buskers can work is fine but only if it is enforced, which it is not. Why should anyone enforce PSPOs.

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- But as we have seen with the super cars it is unenforceable. I would prefer a total ban. But if allowed at all there needs to be some form of judging the "talent" and not allow the abuse of our environment.... quiet space is valued.
- We should rely on the general criminal law and not introduce yet more local restrictions that confuse visitors and are rarely enforced.

Focus on other things

- It seems heavy handed for something I don't perceive as a serious problem as say fly tipping, air pollution, and crime which the Borough should be focusing on.

In favour of PSPO

- Probably but not exclusively.
- For some reason RBKC believes "busking" is something the people who live in Kensington actually want. I am making it clear I and a number of families in our mansion block do not. As mentioned earlier in this survey so called "busking" in Kensington High Street is an East European organised crime operation and why the Council writes in such gushing terms about helping "buskers" beggars belief. What's more The Bulgarian fiddlers, the Romanian concertina players and the Albanian saxophonists drastically lower the tone of an already failing High Street. They are bad for businesses and I can't imagine what the thousands of tourists who come to the borough think. Interestingly you won't find so called "buskers" in say King's Road, Edgware Road or other iconic streets because they are not allowed. But for some reason Kensington High Street has become a Mecca for this kind of musical begging. I'd like to get to the bottom of why.
- But as we have seen with the super cars it is unenforceable. I would prefer a total ban. But if allowed at all there needs to be some form of judging the "talent" and not allow the abuse of our environment.... quiet space is valued.
- I'm not against, but as I said before, it needs to be done with conditions applied. IE - 10am-7pm busking allowed only. IE - a decibel limit. It's a difficult balance, and especially in the areas more hostile to the council in the north of the borough, any move like this will be unpopular. It must be both done and communicated sensitively to the political climate. But I do want regulation of entertainment/busking, because it robs me of the choice to listen to music as and when and at what volume I want. Instead I have to put up with whatever I'm told.
- It would make the issue of unreasonable busking noise/performance and others the responsibility of a clearly responsible department/operation which is not currently apparent.
- I support the introduction of a PSPO because I am regularly disturbed in my workplace and this is disruptive to concentration and motivation. I think it will be hard to find locations that do not disturb residents or workers.
- The streets are quite crowded at certain times of the year and if this helps the council and police then this is useful.
- I think that a PSPO is needed but the hours of restriction should not be as long as proposed, for example it could be from 10-12, then from 2-5 pm. Buskers are trying to gain money to live with dignity. Other idea is that there could be an area for buskers, for example around the exit of the museum lane. Most importantly, the museum can also improve the noise isolation in the buildings/offices affected, this area is in general very noisy. Thanks for trying to mitigate this issue.
- Because many buskers would not stay in line with the rules of course without any type of enforcement.

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- I am to support controls but not bans.
- A ban on busking would be better.
- The street entertainment is great as it helps driving a good level of footfall to the local area creating a wonderful atmosphere. It might be worth imposing certain restrictions (Noise, Location, Equipment...) to ensure the local residents are not disturbed.
- A ban on busking in residential areas would be better.

Indifferent towards a PSPO

- I am not for or against, I think it should be a case by case basis and people moved on if they are causing a nuisance.

Issues caused by busking/buskers

- For some reason RBKC believes "busking" is something the people who live in Kensington actually want. I am making it clear I and a number of families in our mansion block do not. As mentioned earlier in this survey so called "busking" in Kensington High Street is an East European organised crime operation and why the Council writes in such gushing terms about helping "buskers" beggars belief. What's more The Bulgarian fiddlers, the Romanian concertina players and the Albanian saxophonists drastically lower the tone of an already failing High Street. They are bad for businesses and I can't imagine what the thousands of tourists who come to the borough think. Interestingly you won't find so called "buskers" in say King's Road, Edgware Road or other iconic streets because they are not allowed. But for some reason Kensington High Street has become a Mecca for this kind of musical begging. I'd like to get to the bottom of why.
- I am against the gambling three-cup game that is often played to swindle money out of customers on Portobello Road near the Sun in Splendour.
- The performers are untalented, the tunes are repetitive, some entertainers are aggressive when trying to extract money and some (like the bubble man) pose a threat to health and safety (i.e. the burst bubbles make the pavement area slippery).
- I support the introduction of a PSPO because I am regularly disturbed in my workplace and this is disruptive to concentration and motivation. I think it will be hard to find locations that do not disturb residents or workers.
- On the square where I live (pedestrianised between of Tavistock road and Basing street) it attracts drunks, drug dealers noise and nuisance and anti-social behaviour outside our windows and up in Tavistock Gardens. Wallets and purses of hapless tourists emptied and dropped inside my wall or in the bushes or under the benches in the park. Then the mini festivals that are mounted exacerbates the same. The whole effect becomes one of intimidation and abuse for blocks. Lawless and violent.

Not needed/street entertainment does not cause an issue

- I don't see it as a problem therefore enforcement is not needed.
- Music cheers people up and makes them smile. I cannot see a downside.
- a) this whole questionnaire is extremely biased. The Council needs to make the case for a PSPO, not ask why it should not be introduced b) street entertainment and busking are a lively and pleasant part of town life c) we need less regulation, not more, of street activity
- I've never come across any problems in this area, and in general am not in favour of more regulations.
- I do not experience street entertainment and busking as an issue in RBKC as opposed to many places in City of Westminster for instance.

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- I don't feel that there is a problem of excessive busking and entertainment and it does not affect me or disturb me in any way.
- It's a low priority issue and totally disproportionate to the problem. Better public realm - i.e. less street clutter - would make it harder for buskers to set up where it isn't welcome and existing police powers should be used instead.
- I'm not aware of any particular problems arising from street entertainment.
- There is not a problem and street entertainers add to the character of the area. There is a major problem with poverty and street entertainers are addressing their own poverty in an entrepreneurial and should be encouraged. Residents choose to live in popular shopping streets and near tube stations. They should have been aware of street entertainment when they moved there and can move away if they do not like it. There are many quiet areas in England they could move to. Cities are by their nature noisy, entrepreneurial and vibrant.
- I have not generally found this to be a problem.
- It isn't necessary. I've never been bothered by busking - in fact, the quality of some of the musicianship is beyond question.
- It's not enough of a nuisance to need the restriction on liberty.
- There is no danger with entertainment and busking, just some common sense on every one's part.
- Because they cause no problem and actively improve the area.
- It's not a problem. Good luck to them.
- Busking is a harmless tradition and does not need regulating - there are already laws against noise nuisance and obstructing the highway, nothing more is required.
- I do not find it a real problem, but some other people might.
- Because part of what makes Kensington and Chelsea and Ladbrooke Grove in particular is the fact that it is such a diverse and free area when walking down Portobello you can almost feel as if you are not in the heart of London. The street performers are a part of the community and make the area what it is so famous and loved.
- Where is the evidence that street entertainment/busking is a problem? Just because you receive some complaints, that in itself does not mean there is a justified and proven problem. Too many people have moved to this wonderful vibrant area and feel they want all the benefits with none of the consequences of living next to a market. You need to toughen up and support your market, which brings economic and cultural benefits to the Borough.
- It's blatantly unnecessary. See my previous comments. The only protection our public spaces need is from [named Councillor and named Council officer] and their insatiable property-developing friends.
- I value busking. This sounds like an anxiety-ridden bit of unnecessary busy bodying.
- Street entertainment and performance adds to the rich cultural experience of the borough. It provides colour and interest. It should be encouraged and supported, not demonized.
- I think it's an unnecessary step to take before looking at other ways of managing street entertainment/busking. TfL seem to have a great system in place for busking on the Underground so surely the Council could emulate this in some ways.
- Please first explain what legislation is currently on the books, and why you don't feel it is sufficient to tackle the issue of busking. Again, do people know what a PSPO is, exactly? Lord Taylor said this in the House of Lords, on the subject: "The Government are certainly not seeking to restrict reasonable behaviour and activity, and we do not believe that these powers do. Live music and street entertainment play an important role in

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community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that is enjoyed by all". Why is a paragraph like this nowhere to be seen in your consultation? Lady Williams of Trafford said: "The Government are clear that appropriate busking can enrich a community's quality of life and generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by many people". You don't once mention this. You say you "celebrate the vibrancy" of the streets. But this says nothing about quality of life. Is a leading survey like this even legal as a way of getting responses from the public?

- It is not a problem and it is mean spirited to stop music on the streets.
- Busking is a time honoured tradition that brings life to the streets and support aspiring artists. There are plenty of existing laws that deal with any potentially negative effects that can arise due to busking, applying these existing laws is sufficient to deal with these issues. A PSPO is not needed. A better solution is to create a community based approach where the buskers themselves in liaison with the local council, can work out any issues.
- Street entertainment is welcome by most people and very appreciated. Keep streets live!
- Heavy handed response. There are already informal, more flexible and cost effective ways of controlling busking (e.g. Busker's Code and normal noise enforcement). Busking should be encouraged as it provides a much needed chance for musicians and performers starting out to cut their teeth, and also animates public spaces. Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater because of a few bad eggs!
- I personally have not been inconvenienced by street entertainment.
- It seems a very excessive response to what is an expression of creativity and a welcome addition to the city in most cases
- It seems heavy handed for something I don't perceive as a serious problem as say fly tipping, air pollution, and crime which the Borough should be focusing on.
- No need to control them too much. Let them express their art.
- See all of my other comments - one of the main reasons I have lived in RBKC for over 30 years is the vibrant street life. If I was bothered by street performers I would move to Basingstoke (or some other suburban lifeless enclave) - RBKC is in the centre of a global city!
- This is the introduction of another layer of bureaucracy. Currently if a busker is causing a health and safety risk then the police are able to deal with that. If they obstruct a business, then the police can deal with that. If they are causing a general disturbance, there are also methods for dealing with this. I do not know of an area in the borough where there is a genuine problem and wonder if this is not a Trojan horse for taxing (via permits) up and coming artists.

Other issues in the area

- Tavistock Square has now become a regular and constant meeting place for heavy drinkers, loud drunken anti-social behaviour, drug use and drug dealing.

Poor quality

- The performers are untalented, the tunes are repetitive, some entertainers are aggressive when trying to extract money and some (like the bubble man) pose a threat to health and safety (i.e. the burst bubbles make the pavement area slippery).

Support performers

- It is a great asset to attract tourists to this area. People, especially children, love the music and various acts on show. They engage with the performers and seem to enjoy

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every aspect of the shows. It provides valuable exposure for the entertainers themselves and provides an extra source of income for the entertainers themselves. Perhaps, instead of trying to restrict peoples' activities in a public space, we should look to engage with the entertainers and help them develop their acts, providing them with a platform for their own development and improving our interactions with street-level activities beyond the building limits of the museum.

- Street entertainment and performance adds to the rich cultural experience of the borough. It provides colour and interest. It should be encouraged and supported, not demonized.

Survey

- Your questions are too prescriptive. PSPO shifts the responsibility from the police to RBKC which has a working party. I am guarded about the previous set of questions.
- Please first explain what legislation is currently on the books, and why you don't feel it is sufficient to tackle the issue of busking. Again, do people know what a PSPO is, exactly? Lord Taylor said this in the House of Lords, on the subject: "The Government are certainly not seeking to restrict reasonable behaviour and activity, and we do not believe that these powers do. Live music and street entertainment play an important role in community life and can generate a positive atmosphere that is enjoyed by all". Why is a paragraph like this nowhere to be seen in your consultation? Lady Williams of Trafford said: "The Government are clear that appropriate busking can enrich a community's quality of life and generate a positive atmosphere that can be enjoyed by many people". You don't once mention this. You say you "celebrate the vibrancy" of the streets. But this says nothing about quality of life. Is a leading survey like this even legal as a way of getting responses from the public?

Take other measures

- It's a low priority issue and totally disproportionate to the problem. Better public realm - i.e. less street clutter - would make it harder for buskers to set up where it isn't welcome and existing police powers should be used instead.
- I would prefer licensing busking.
- Over the years I have not found 'policing' has worked. In fact, it often creates the very thing it is trying to prevent. Even though it can take longer at the beginning a collaborative relational approach produces best results in the long run.
- I disagree with the criminalisation element. I feel that there has to be a better way to deal with this rather than charging someone with a criminal offence.
- It could be unfairly used to the detriment of the local character and feel particularly Portobello Road, Ladbroke Grove, Notting Hill areas. Any measures to regulate street performers should be done so along with clear measures that support and facilitate street performing, that broadens local artists' opportunities to perform. It would be better to separate different activities e.g. music from political/religious activities, an overarching PSPO is a blunt tool that may not be sensitive to location or street specific situation.
- I think it's an unnecessary step to take before looking at other ways of managing street entertainment/busking. TfL seem to have a great system in place for busking on the Underground so surely the Council could emulate this in some ways.
- Busking is a time honoured tradition that brings life to the streets and support aspiring artists. There are plenty of existing laws that deal with any potentially negative effects that can arise due to busking, applying these existing laws is sufficient to deal with these issues. A PSPO is not needed. A better solution is to create a community based approach where the buskers themselves in liaison with the local council, can work out any issues.

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- I believe existing laws when applied fairly can be used to deal with any problems associated with busking. This will only penalise the least able and those excluded from society will be further excluded. I say this as a street performer who has played Portobello Road for the past four years Saturday mornings and as a former resident of the borough in the 1990s and though this scheme does not implicitly affect me in Portobello area as outlined it does in others namely Exhibition Road. I understand the problems and frustrations that can be caused and can only sympathise with residents who are adversely affected however I also sympathise with the general public who clearly love street entertainment, street entertainers themselves and the wider community that benefits economically from presence of street musicians. I have had various problems playing in the borough which I am not going to elaborate on here but I have had far more successes than failures and the welcome that was extended to me by many on Portobello market I will never forget. I am self-employed for past ten years and had to stop playing Camden due to licensing on a matter of principle and if these restrictions are imposed I will have no choice but to make alternative arrangements within or outside the borough. Overall it is about give-and-take, reasonableness and a common sense approach to everybody's rights and responsibilities which on the whole has enabled me to play outside Starbucks Saturdays without too much trouble and when advised of a problem by a resident/official to do with noise or crowd I have tried to act sympathetically and responsibly whilst I also try to not play all the time in the same place all the time to avoid problems in the first place. I think if you had a 'buskers code' and listed potential problem areas it would go a long way to advising those that for whatever reason do not act in this way and would overall help solve any problems and alleviate the situation. Thank you for this opportunity to put my viewpoint forward and if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. [Name given]
- My preference would be for a licensing scheme (such as the one in Camden which is tried and tested). However, a PSPO is better than the current situation where there are no controls at all.
- I think it will penalise law abiding entertainers too much. Perhaps the borough could take the permit approach toward it and have auditions on international busking day and issue two-yearly licences.
- These rules read as if they've been designed to prohibit busking, without recognising that a lot of busking is positive and beneficial for the area and for the artists doing it. Blanket bans are a blunt tool. A better approach would be to make a concerted effort to show that the council support and encourage good busking, support and encourage talented performers who contribute to the area in a positive way. To devise any scheme with supportive performers. And to then only penalise those performers that behave irresponsibly. At a time when the cost of education is increasing and society is becoming more divided, busking is a wonderful way for people with talent to share and grown their skills and give pleasure to others, without cost being a barrier. Street performance is an important income stream for many artists. It is an important platform for artists to reach their audience and earn a living - and many very successful artists like Ed Sheeran, Pierce Brosnan, Eddie Izzard and KT Tunstall have been regular buskers. Busking is an important cultural activity that London should get behind not ban. Our reputation as a centre for arts and creativity is because we support and nurture talent and give talented people a platform.
- This is just a further useless regulation. Buskers have never been a problem in the borough. Stop wasting time on side issues, which are not relevant and tackle the real problems.

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Timings

- I think that a PSPO is needed but the hours of restriction should not be as long as proposed, for example it could be from 10-12, then from 2-5 pm. Buskers are trying to gain money to live with dignity. Other idea is that there could be an area for buskers, for example around the exit of the museum lane. Most importantly, the museum can also improve the noise isolation in the buildings/offices affected, this area is in general very noisy. Thanks for trying to mitigate this issue.
-

Q7) If you disagree with the above question [about the proposed PSPO locations] please explain the reason for your answer?

Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Against being introduced in particular locations or against being introduced altogether	55	Amplified music	1
Addition of extra streets/locations	47	Designated areas	1
Other	7	Different issues in different locations	1
Move the problem	4	Licensing	1
Support area defined	3	Survey	1
Don't know	2		

Comments

Addition of extra streets/locations

- Add Duke of York's.
- All of Portobello Road should be busking free, for the residents, business owners and stall holders whose livelihoods are genuinely negatively impacted by the noise, crowds and confusion that occurs - customers just walk away, tenants leave, residents can even hear through the double glazing!
- All Portobello Road should be free of any buskers and street performers as they negatively affect legitimate businesses who are trying to make a living.
- Also include Cromwell Road along the front of the museum, in case they relocate there.
- Also needed at the junction of Portobello Road and Westbourne Grove and also just further down Portobello Road in the driveway to the flats opposite shops 125, 127.
- Also prohibit from Portobello Road and Lonsdale Road. And Portobello Road between there and Westbourne Grove.
- Area omits low end of Exhibition Rd (SW7 2HE) where there is constant noise.
- But the WHOLE of Exhibition Road should be covered by the order, not just north of Cromwell Road - it is a nonsense to control it in Thurloe Street and allow it within three feet in Exhibition Road
- But, it needs to include the whole of the pedestrianised section of Hans Crescent, not just outside the entrance to Knightsbridge Tube station.

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- Doesn't include the whole length of Portobello street market. My stall is on Portobello junction with Lancaster Road which affected on weekly basis. Musicians are affecting markets stalls the whole length of the Portobello Street.
- I agree - but what about Notting Hill Gate insofar as not covered by the reference to tube stations?
- I agree with all the locations but why is Notting Hill Gate not on the list? I have called RBKC many times to complain about musical beggars there.
- I agree with the above locations where problems currently exist, but you have not including the part of Portobello Road that runs down to Pembridge Road. Every Saturday there are buskers, often with amplifiers, from about 10am onwards. I used to call Busking London or the Environmental Health, as well as our local Councillor, [named], but to no avail as the buskers keep coming back week after week. This part of Portobello Road is primarily residential. It is not part of the market. Buskers should not be allowed. I also think that the area around Notting Hill Gate should be included, from a 500m radius from the tube station. If RBKC does adopt the PSPO for designated areas buskers will only go elsewhere - how will you tackle that situation? Will the PSPO also cover preachers who use amplifiers?
- I am regularly disturbed by buskers on the corner of Exhibition Road and Cromwell Road and would like to see fewer buskers during office hours or effective noise restrictions. I am less concerned about buskers at weekends/early evenings. I have not been bothered by buskers at the other locations.
- I feel that there should not be any busking between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Grove at all, as it causes great disturbance to residents.
- I support the locations proposed - however I am very strongly opposed to the suggestion parts of Exhibition Rd and Museum Lane next to Exhibition Rd (a perennial busking problem area) should be exempted. All parts of Exhibition Road and the whole of Museum Lane should be covered by the order.
- I would add the whole of Portobello Road.
- I would like to see a PSPO affecting the whole of the King's Road.
- I would like you to include the Hans Crescent pedestrian section, not just outside the tube station.
- It is the Exhibition Rd area where we have the problem - we work at the Natural History Museum.
- It is very important to adopt on the Portobello Road near to the rail fly over because the guy drumming there not only creates a big annoying noise pollution but he also keeps ranting [at] our customers and tourists walking on this road passing him.
- It's not enough. From where I live, I can hear buskers on Chepstow Villas, Denbigh Terrace, before Longlands Court, after Longlands Court and even Westbourne Grove when they are particularly noisy. Buskers also attract pickpockets.
- Kensington High Street is a major problem in that the "talented performers" move along the street. They are not in a concentrated area other than in front of Whole Foods which is totally ignored. The south end of Exhibition Road seems to be allowed to be a free for all.
- Lower Exhibition Road is very much in need of monitoring. The repetition is relentless as is the level of noise, upon occasion.
- Notting Hill Gate is also a serious problem.
- Please add Exhibition Road from the station to Cromwell Road.
- Regarding Exhibition Road, the PSPO should extend from Thurloe Street northward to the Borough Boundary with Westminster. Otherwise, street performers will congregate on

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Exhibition Road from Thurloe Street to Thurloe Place to Cromwell Road, especially in front of the Venezuela Embassy.

- Strongly disagree as the problem is also huge at the lower end of Exhibition Road, if I had time to call up to complain I would be doing it on an almost daily basis. This area needs to be included if RBKC are serious about this problem.
- The Chepstow Villas and Denbigh Terrace locations are welcome, but this is not enough. The whole section between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Grove needs to be included, especially the spot in front of Longlands Court (100 Portobello Road) as the noise from here travels far and wide. Cars often get blocked there too. This is a location that has often been complained about, so it is surprising it has not been included. From my home, I can hear buskers on the corner of Chepstow Villas, Denbigh Terrace, Longlands Court, after Longlands Court, and when they are particularly noisy, even at the corner with Westbourne Grove. The reason for this is because the road here is narrow and noise reverberates.
- The section of the Portobello Road just in front of Longlands Court (around 100 Portobello Road), on both sides) should be also be included in this list. There have been many complaints over the years about busking in this area (including 2ICE and the High Town Crows) and there are reference numbers to support this.
- The stretch of Cromwell Road outside the V&A and Natural History Museums should also be considered.
- The whole length of Kensington High Street needs to be included from the Royal Garden Hotel to the Design Museum.
- The whole of Exhibition Road south of Prince Consort Road should be introduced in the PSPO, as it affects hundreds of people working at the Museums and Imperial College.
- There is no mention of the area outside Gloucester Road tube station. This is the only area of public space in the Courtfield ward and is well used by residents and visitors but is often drowned by excessive noise from buskers on both sides of the station. Gloucester Road should be included in the list above.
- This needs to include Tavistock Square, under the Westway and the corner of Lancaster Road and Portobello Road (buskers every single weekend).
- This should apply also to the main tube stations.
- We need to add the area around the South Ken Station and part of the Exhibition Road up to Cromwell Road.
- You must include the Elgin/Colville Terrace intersection with Portobello Road.
- Lower Exhibition Road from Thurloe Place to Thurloe Street also needs to be included.
- Lower Exhibition Road needs to be added.
- As well as the above, I strongly recommend a PSPO is introduced on Hans Crescent (adjacent to Harrods), as well as the area surrounding the Harrods underground station. This is an extremely area, with a high footfall. Therefore buskers are prevalent at all times, and cause a public safety risk next to a busy main road (Brompton Road), as well as causing noise disruption to local residents and visitors.
- Borough wide is needed to prevent other areas being used where activity is prohibited elsewhere.
- I'm not for the PSPO but if it's happening despite my objection then I wonder why Notting Hill Gate is not on the list.
- Strongly urge making it Borough wide to protect all areas to which nuisance buskers might move if excluded from the above. Borough wide would also support other boroughs grappling with same issues.

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- The entire area between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Grove needs to be included. I've complained loads of times about [number removed] Portobello Road (entrance of Longlands Court estate). The noise bounces around in this part of Portobello Road and can be heard far away.
- Other areas important too. Such as Lonsdale Road junction with Portobello Road, where toilets are.
- There are frequently buskers at the junction of Westbourne Grove and Portobello Road and in the flat entrance opposite Vernans Yard in Portobello Road. Why is this not on the list?

Against being introduced in particular locations or against being introduced altogether

- Again disproportionate to the issue. For example, there is plenty of room outside Earls Court Station. People actively encourage the buskers there.
- As I said. I don't agree with the introduction of a PSPO so I don't support the locations either.
- As my previous answer. Why do you only want reasons against? I enjoy hearing buskers.
- Because these are the best spots for these people to earn money which is why they are there. You wouldn't find a street performer down an alley way because no one will see them. By introducing these laws, you are making people whose lives are most probably hard enough harder. People do not think of the consequences of such laws for instance they are most probably taking food directly out of these people mouths.
- By introducing this PSPO, you are severely limiting the available spaces of entertainment. Instead of cultivating an exciting street ambiance, you are creating a hostile environment for people trying to entertain and from which they make some small income. The enforcement of such a PSPO is deplorable.
- Free speech in respect of political leafleting and rallies should not be stopped by a blanket ban.
- Gosh wouldn't it be sad to come out of the miserable underground and not be cheered up by music.
- I can only point to what I have previously stated as to why I oppose PSPOs.
- I can see how some of the more residential locations listed above may find busking disturbing, but the majority are busy areas where there are lots of people and noise and personally I think the music adds a more pleasant atmosphere to many of these areas.
- I disagree with the very principle of introducing PSPOs to regulate street entertainment; hence considering locations in which to introduce them is immaterial.
- I do not object to some of the other sites but Portobello Road has had buskers since at least the 1960s when I first came into the area, and I find busking one of its charms. I normally give to any who perform half-decently.
- I do not see the need for a PSPO in our borough.
- I feel that we should encourage street performance in these areas, not tie it down in red tape.
- I have not experienced a negative impact from street entertainers in the areas listed (I have not been to all). I have seen many talented musicians in those locations. How would the PSPO ensure that buskers are not moved on because they look wrong or the music is of a particular style?
- I have not generally found buskers to be a nuisance outside the underground stations where I have personally found they add to the general ambience especially if they are good classical musicians. I do agree that they have sometimes been a nuisance in the King's Road and Exhibition Road.

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- I like the ones outside South Kensington tube.
- I would prefer not to live in a totalitarian state that even considers such fascistic regulation of musicians.
- If these locations are prohibited, how and where is busking permitted?
- I'm saying don't know, as I think that outside Earl's Court Station could be a good position, as long as it's not loud, or late, and properly regulated.
- It seems to me that the complaints come from non-residents and from second home residents who should not consulted.
- No PSPO on busking anywhere in North Kensington, thank you very much. Not necessary, not welcome. Do what you want at the Natural History Museum, but hands off trying to kill our community and culture in North Kensington. Just apply the laws we've already got with any degree of competence and common sense and we'll be fine.
- Not a problem - let them get on with it.
- Portobello Road benefits greatly from street entertainers as do other parts of the borough. The exits from tube stations are improved by street entertainers, how many people were killed by crowds outside RBKC tube stations in the last decade - none.
- PSPO is not needed. Again, totally biased questionnaire. The onus should be on justifying the PSPO not on challenging it.
- PSPO is not required to regulate busking.
- See previous comment. I like the music and do not see a problem as it currently works.
- Seems you've just stopped busking being allowed anywhere, please read your opening statement, that busking is good for communities.
- Streets should be kept free and live! With zero restrictions.
- The buskers are part of the atmosphere and add to the area not take away.
- The problem is not sufficient to warrant this sledgehammer approach.
- The proposal is effectively a total ban on busking in the borough, criminalising an otherwise lawful activity for no good reason.
- The Talbot Road location (as just one example) is not always inappropriate, depending on the level of foot flow in the market and the type of performance. There are performers who do not draw crowds in this location but simply provide ambient music. I would not want to prohibit these types of performers on days when they do not tend to draw crowds.
- These are just the places where it often takes place. So by highlighting these areas you are trying to clamp down on street performance in general - which I strongly disagree with. This area has a rich and long history of music and street performance. It is part of its distinct character.
- These are natural places for buskers to perform. I've enjoyed the busking at all these locations for years and strongly believe that this is totally unnecessary and misguided interference.
- This is a benefit for the community, it affords musicians a chance to practice and perform and is rarely unpleasant.
- Those are the places where street entertainers often have the most positive effect. If regulation is really needed make it borough wide but limited to really obnoxious/antisocial cases.
- Why are the existing laws about nuisance not sufficient?
- You cannot regulate public space in this manner - anti democratic.
- Can't see a problem.
- A number of these locations are in tourist areas and are helpful to local businesses.

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- Again, criminalizing public spaces is absurd, dangerous and frankly - it scares me to see such proposals coming from Councils. Here is a good article from the Guardian that shows how PSPOs are simply designed to curb not only personal freedoms but corners of democracy. <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/sep/08/pspos-new-control-orders-public-spaces-asbos-freedoms> I thought we can do better than Putin's Russia. I guess I may have overestimated our own democracy.
- Again, this is skewed towards the negative (explain yourself if you disagree with this reasonable proposal, dammit!). See all my previous comments.
- As before, these are areas which are known for their vibrancy and performance should be part of this.
- Don't think PSPO should be introduced
- Earl's Court station is a great performing hub!
- For each of these locations, there needs to be a clear rationale why the council are asking for the ability to further control or ban busking. Asking for blanket powers across a swathe of locations with no explanation lacks rigour, transparency and accountability.
- I love hearing music in the street. It reminds me that I live in the city where people create and connect to each other. I've grown up in these areas and I don't want any changes to the status quo on this issue.
- If you live in central London, it is bound to be noisy. If you want silence, go live in the countryside.
- I'm not for the PSPO but if it's happening despite my objection then I wonder why Notting Hill Gate is not on the list.
- It is always a pleasure to hear musicians at these locations.
- Leave the street performers alone!!
- The locations are very varied and this is a 'one size fits all' type of question. I believe busking outside e.g. museums or in a large shopping area, such as Kensington High Street, could be acceptable except in cases where residents or workers have objected and are prevented from going about their business, because of the noise.
- There are more important things in life.
- These are many of the same areas where I've seen performances that I've enjoyed and where performers can access large numbers of spectators, increasing both their exposure and their income. It also adds a vibrancy to the area that I would be sad to see disappear.
- Why? Why are you not asking those who agree why they agree? I disagree for the reasons already stated and these locations offer the potential for a mini tourist tax. I must say the tourists are far more irritating than buskers.

Amplified music

- The problem is with amplified Music. Music means music it's not about making a lot of noise. People appreciate suitable music made by musicians. Responsible decent musicians want to play good music fit for the environment they are in. The music and repertoire should suit the environment.

Designated areas

- As mentioned before, there should be areas to perform this street entertainment. There should be a regulation, but not a total restriction. Buskers are trying to gain some money, it is jobs and people we are talking about.

Different issues in different locations

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- The above locations are very different and have different issues. E.g. Natural History Museum area is plagued by tatty mime character performers. Portobello Road is a busy location anyway, hard to see how street performances contribute to this.

Don't know

- I do not feel able to respond as there is no street entertainment in my road - Finborough Road.
- I don't know because I have not experienced busking or street entertainment at most of these locations.

Licensing

- These locations are highly profitable for buskers and entertainers. The permit/license approach would work for these areas and anyone that breaks the rules could be banned from performing in those locations.

Move the problem

- I agree with the above locations where problems currently exist, but you have not including the part of Portobello Road that runs down to Pembridge Road. Every Saturday there are buskers, often with amplifiers, from about 10am onwards. I used to call Busking London or the Environmental Health, as well as our local Councillor, [named], but to no avail as the buskers keep coming back week after week. This part of Portobello Road is primarily residential. It is not part of the market. Buskers should not be allowed. I also think that the area around Notting Hill Gate should be included, from a 500m radius from the tube station. If RBKC does adopt the PSPO for designated areas buskers will only go elsewhere - how will you tackle that situation? Will the PSPO also cover preachers who use amplifiers?
- Regarding Exhibition Road, the PSPO should extend from Thurloe Street northward to the Borough Boundary with Westminster. Otherwise, street performers will congregate on Exhibition Road from Thurloe Street to Thurloe Place to Cromwell Road, especially in front of the Venezuela Embassy.
- The danger of a PSPO related to specific locations, will only encourage 'street entertainment' to migrate to another location - where the problem would be replicated.
- A mechanism is required to deal with new venues that pop up

Other

- Already done.
- Can only really comment on the issues in and around South Kensington as I have not been exposed to the other sites.
- Have given my reason in the previous section.
- I did not realise that so many others in various locations appear to share my views. It is no longer an impoverished musician trying to earn a crust; it is Gang-masters running teams who give in 80 per cent of the takings, according to a British Transport Police officer.
- I know only Kensington High Street well and there are rarely buskers there.
- I live in this area with a lot of complaints. I often don't enjoy the music - I am however a musician, but don't generally busk in the street because I'd be wary of other people harassing me - as well as not wanting to cause distress or disruption.
- I might be too conservative/reactionary so could be persuaded.

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Support area defined

- Once again. I only support the PSPO in these areas with respect to amplified vocals and instrumentation.
- These all seem to me good locations for buskers, especially outside stations.
- Earl's Court tube station should be top of the list to permanently ban busking.

Survey

- What if you strongly agree with some, but strongly disagree with others? Why isn't this broken down item by item?

Q8) If you have any further comments regarding street entertainment, the proposed PSPO or the impact a PSPO might have please state them below.

Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Negative impact of buskers/busking	49	Take other measures	9
In favour of PSPO	48	Other	7
Area to be covered	21	Designated areas	5
Against PSPO	18	Survey	4
PSPO restrictions	17	Move the problem	3
Positive impact of music/busking	16	Begging	2
Quality of buskers	14	Notting Hill Carnival	1
Enforcement	11	Problem in pubs too	1
Focus on other things	9	Repetition	1

Comments

Against PSPO

- Again, RBKC should focus on other criminal activities - street crime, vehicle break-ins, not a PSPO on street buskers. It is hardly going to enhance the reputation of the Council if they are perceived to end all music in Kensington and Chelsea.
- Buskers are not criminals and busking is not anti-social behaviour - individuals who disturb residents by making excessive noise in the evenings should be dealt with under existing laws.
- I do not feel busking should be banned at all. There should be standards as introduced before. A lot of folk musicians used to busk and the expectations were high on both sides. It does not always have to be a problem if it is regulated in some way. There is some talent out there but the non-musicians are giving busking a bad name.
- I think well managed street entertainment adds to the vibrancy of an area. I would not want to see a PSPO used to sterilise the streets.
- Just leave it alone you bureaucrats! And, no, I'm not a street entertainer, just someone who wants to live somewhere that doesn't have every inch regulated by council officers.
- Maybe you should have a questionnaire on your own Council's performance, people who enjoy buskers will not call you up to say how good a certain busker was.
- PSPOs will increase poverty in the borough, they are a bad idea. Let entertainers be free to entertain the People of London. Residents who do not like it can move on, there are many quiet places in England that they can live.

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- Stop trying to curtail poor people from feeding themselves. Fascist scum!
- Street entertainment is and should remain welcome.
- The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea has been disgraced enough over the last 12 months and are giving a very clear message that poor people are not wanted and the use of such laws will mean that they won't be accepted. Disgusting and embarrassing!
- The street entertainment in this area is in suitable places and at suitable times. Busking - and the quality of the buskers - is what makes Portobello and Kensington in general a vibrant and sought after area. I don't believe there's any need for any anti-music proposals.
- As I have previously explained, prohibiting street performing will deprive the local area of talent and entertainment, as well as depriving the performers of a space to express themselves and their art. It takes a lot of courage to publicly perform in front of strangers, who could say anything to you, and these performers should not be discouraged from doing so. If any measures are to be put in place, it should be focussed round ensuring performers are not harassed by members of the public.
- Leave buskers and street performers alone free to express their art wherever and whenever they want as they improve the mental health of the entire community.
- Leave the street performers alone!
- One attraction with London is the artistic, creative, vibrant environment. We should do more to tackle homeless people, people who sleep rough and passive money beggars off the street and fill our streets with entertainment that makes us uplifted, surprised, inspired, happy and London an enjoyable place to be in.
- Please drop PSPO immediately and ensure that such drastic, undemocratic options will not be considered anymore. Please speak to artists - dialogue and proper licensing and care for having enough venues where artists can perform is enough. Please treat artists as partners not criminals. Every star that ever came out of UK- David Bowie, Queen, T Rex, The Beatles once started busking and playing on the streets.
- Street entertainment brings life to our area. The proposed PSPO does not address any of the real problems facing RBKC - Grenfell, anyone? We need to hang on to what is left of our local identity with the increasing homogenisation of Kensington due to tourism and "land banking": The PSPO will just help this homogenisation process along.
- We need more of it. More local festivals, screenings and public events to liven up the dying streets. Especially at Christmas, when Ken High Street looks utterly miserable and forlorn. Less prohibition, more help and support from the Council.

Area to be covered

- A PSPO must also cover Notting Hill Gate and can only be good.
- All of Portobello Road should be busking free, for the residents, business owners and stall holders whose livelihoods are genuinely negatively impacted by the noise, crowds and confusion that occurs - customers just walk away, tenants leave, residents can even hear through the double glazing!
- I feel strongly that the Police and Council enforcement officers need PSPOs in place outside Earl's Court Road tube station to be able to take back control of the busy tube station entrance/exit.
- I work at the Natural History Museum and the busking really hinders me from working. I understand that this is part of the 'London culture' and I fully support it for that reason but in all honesty it is preventing me from doing my work. Even if they just moved from the side of Exhibition Road closest to the museum to the other side of the road that would be okay. Or even the other side of Cromwell Road!

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- I would add for the PSPO to cover the entirety of Portobello Road.
- I would include areas where there are many restaurants and cafe areas like South Kensington, Gloucester Road and the Kings Road and Square as the buskers are begging around these especially in the evenings.
- If PSPO is the way forward, buskers should be banned outright from the beginning of the Portobello Road (approached from Notting Hill Tube Station) through to a point well after it passes Westbourne Grove, as this section is highly residential.
- If you could include restrictions in Portobello Road from Pembridge Road to Chepstow Villas. This section is purely residential and very narrow.
- Please don't ban busking altogether, I love listening to some of singers in Thurloe Street and outside South Kensington Station. Limiting the volume and the time would be most helpful. Please don't forget the pedestrian tunnel under Exhibition Road. Sometimes it is physically painful to walk past a big sound system in there as it is a confined space and the audience is far more trapped. The sound also travels a much greater distance so it is difficult to get away from.
- Please include Museum Lane off Exhibition Road in the order - there are dangerous buskers there on a daily basis frequently resulting in crowds obstructing and stepping into the traffic. It also disturbs both residents and Museums' staff trying to work.
- Please include Royal Avenue.
- Please stop them coming near residential premises. We resident can't move out or not be in our homes. The noise these buskers make is out of order and is a statutory noise nuisance. Sometimes, I can't even hear the phone ring in my home because they are so noisy. Why is that fair? Buskers are also rude and threatening. I was pushed by one just because I asked him to leave. Another one followed me home. Another one told me that he knew that he was disturbing residents but he wanted to make money and I should move out!
- Strongly recommend that there should be no street entertainers on Portobello Road between Chepstow Villas and Westbourne Park and Westbourne Park Road. This is a residential area.
- The entrance to a tube station is not the appropriate place for buskers as it crowds the entrance and thus poses a danger.
- The PSPO must offer equal protection to the diverse areas of the borough e.g. North and South and also the opportunity to legitimate street performers who should not be prohibited out of hand.
- To repeat. I am against electrical amplification of street music/ entertainment. I believe that this ban should be borough wide excepting one off events licensed through the borough/ London Mayor's Office i.e. Carnival. Performers would still get to play on the streets of the borough but would have to do so without amplification. It would help them hone their craft as well as strike a balance between the competing interests of the boroughs residents/visitors/ tradespeople and the buskers themselves
- Unless the proposed PSPO cover vital areas such as outside Gloucester Road station restrictions will push buskers to congregate in these areas. Please include Gloucester Road in your list of PSPO.
- What about Colville Terrace? And the corner with Portobello Road.
- Please include Thurloe Street / Lower Exhibition Road.
- Portobello Road is very narrow and built-up street where noise become an issue for residents and some visitors too. Serious restrictions are necessary.
- To the proposed Portobello locations, I would add the Junction of Westbourne Grove/Portobello Road as this has become a frequent spot for buskers.

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Begging

- Since I consider buskers to be preferable to beggars I would want any restrictions on buskers to apply even more strictly to beggars.
- One attraction with London is the artistic, creative, vibrant environment. We should do more to tackle homeless people, people who sleep rough and passive money beggars off the street and fill our streets with entertainment that makes us uplifted, surprised, inspired, happy and London an enjoyable place to be in.

Designated areas

- As previously stated the key is to find spots where busking isn't going to disturb anyone, it's not to accommodate buskers who are in it just for the money. It's not fair to expect residents to put up with noise that they haven't chosen and don't want to hear for hours on end. It's not fair to market traders to see buskers make money, block access to their stalls, but not have to pay anything or compensate anyone. There is already evidence that busking can amount to a statutory noise nuisance (please ask the environmental health team for this), so the Council cannot allow a noise nuisance to happen. Residents and people who work in Kensington and Chelsea matter more than buskers and we need protection. Robust enforcement will also be needed. Having to rely on the noise and nuisance team won't be enough as they are overstretched and often cannot respond on time. The Council should also consider organising a busking festival, perhaps in the Council courtyard, if it wants to give some buskers an outlet.
- Buskers should be controlled, have a licence and a pitch controlled by RBKC.
- I believe that as council tax payers the residents many of whom have lived for decades in an area they love and call home need to be free from the tyranny of loud noise which is often accompanied by antisocial behaviour. Why should our children be robbed of sleep or a peaceful environment in which to study or relax? Why should older people be driven to distraction and possible mental health problems by a seemingly never ending wall of noise which permeates their entire residences. Why should we be told this is what to expect because we live in 'Portobello' which is a 'vibrant area. We accept the Notting Hill Carnival and can choose to join in or leave for the weekend when Carnival comes to the area. Why should we be subjected to Carnival levels of noise every evening and weekend. If street musicians need to play can they not be more regulated to play further away from each other, restricted to playing at certain times and in certain designated commercial / non-residential areas?
- Maybe have dedicated spaces in areas that would cause the least hindrance and control the activities that take place there rather than a blanket ban?
- Maybe we could consider like the tube stations having one or two designated spots. For example, middle of Harrods Plaza, similarly by South Ken station.... middle of open spaces! Let them audition like required for the Underground.

Enforcement

- First agree who will enforce the rules.
- I would have a concern that the PSPO would need to be actively enforced and I am concerned that we would want to know whether RBKC has resources to enforce the changes.
- In practical terms, how will the PSPO be enforced effectively?
- It is a great idea, but depends on enforcement.

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- PSPO will need to be actively enforced otherwise, like the lack of enforcement of the PSPO against supercars, residents will actively lose confidence in the Council or the police.
- Regular patrols are needed please to enforce the order so that the offenders are not tempted to come back.
- Someone must be responsible for visiting quickly the spot for which a complaint is made. The police are not interested and do nothing. Buskers will only conform if they know that they will be visited and after a number of warnings will be banned from that spot.
- Suggest you apply resources to enforcing current laws and regulations. Effective enforcement not more regulation, please.
- The PSPO is not enough, it needs proper enforcement or is pointless.
- We think it might be a good idea but the locations it would affect should be selected by the people who live in each one. We are concerned that PSPOs are made but not enforced - as seems to be so in the case of anti- social driving in King's Rd. We also suffer from noise pollution from shops and cafes. Could that be controlled as well?
- Whilst our family believes that there is a need for the proposed PSPO, it is unclear how effective it will be without clear and well-publicised means of enforcement against offenders.

Focus on other things

- Again, RBKC should focus on other criminal activities - street crime, vehicle break-ins, not a PSPO on street buskers. It is hardly going to enhance the reputation of the Council if they are perceived to end all music in Kensington and Chelsea.
- Enforcement of street cleanliness is the issue for me, and busking is only a subset. There is a regular drinking set with chairs who occupy corner of Nevern Place/Earl's Court Road. These are what need tackling.
- I think the borough should rather reduce begging and rough sleeping.
- Of the many things RBKC needs to look into, this is not a priority.
- We think it might be a good idea but the locations it would affect should be selected by the people who live in each one. We are concerned that PSPOs are made but not enforced - as seems to be so in the case of anti- social driving in King's Rd. We also suffer from noise pollution from shops and cafes. Could that be controlled as well?
- Would be nice if as much attention is given to the running of the market in general and that the street traders are complying with the standard regulations. Which currently are not. This lack of regulation or control is a nuisance to the overall market.
- Please focus on serious issues.
- Work on what matters. Serve the people of Grenfell. Tackle homelessness. So youth outreach. Shutting down live music on our streets should be the least of your concerns. Target resources where they are needed.
- Just please stop the buskers, oh and the beggars and the drug users whilst you're at it.

In favour of PSPO

- A PSPO must also cover Notting Hill Gate and can only be good.
- A PSPO would have a very positive impact for those who have been significantly disrupted by the continuous antisocial busking outside the museums.
- As previously stated they key is to find spots where busking isn't going to disturb anyone, it's not to accommodate buskers who are in it just for the money. It's not fair to expect residents to put up with noise that they haven't chosen and don't want to hear for hours on end. It's not fair to market traders to see buskers make money, block access to their

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stalls, but not have to pay anything or compensate anyone. There is already evidence that busking can amount to a statutory noise nuisance (please ask the environmental health team for this), so the Council cannot allow a noise nuisance to happen. Residents and people who work in Kensington and Chelsea matter more than buskers and we need protection. Robust enforcement will also be needed. Having to rely on the noise and nuisance team won't be enough as they are overstretched and often cannot respond on time. The Council should also consider organising a busking festival, perhaps in the Council courtyard, if it wants to give some buskers an outlet.

- Definitely need a PSPO for traders' sanity.
- Diversity of art and music is a wonderful thing and is very much welcomed within our Cultural Quarter, all that I would like to see happen is the PSPO regulate the areas in which creative people can perform to limit the amount of disruption to businesses, residential dwellings and the general public.
- Get rid of the dross from our streets.
- I am glad to see that the Council is taking firm action against the anti-social activities of many buskers.
- I believe that as council tax payers the residents many of whom have lived for decades in an area they love and call home need to be free from the tyranny of loud noise which is often accompanied by antisocial behaviour. Why should our children be robbed of sleep or a peaceful environment in which to study or relax? Why should older people be driven to distraction and possible mental health problems by a seemingly never ending wall of noise which permeates their entire residences. Why should we be told this is what to expect because we live in 'Portobello' which is a 'vibrant area. We accept the Notting Hill Carnival and can choose to join in or leave for the weekend when Carnival comes to the area. Why should we be subjected to Carnival levels of noise every evening and weekend. If street musicians need to play can they not be more regulated to play further away from each other, restricted to playing at certain times and in certain designated commercial / non-residential areas?
- I dearly hope that this is brought in and we can start to have a proper residential place to live again.
- I feel strongly that the Police and Council enforcement officers need PSPOs in place outside Earl's Court Road tube station to be able to take back control of the busy tube station entrance/exit.
- I feel very strongly that tight controls on noisy street entertainment are long overdue.
- I guess it will have the impact to make people respect the choice for people to listen to music when they wish and where they wish to listen to music and to a music of their choice. It is now everywhere, in restaurants where you find hard to carry a conversation, chemists where you may [be] more concern[ed] to concentrate on ordering medicine, shops where your only wish is to purchase shoes, sun cream or books, supermarket etc...do we need to add the street. Aren't they populated, noisy and polluted enough? I love music, but silence is also beautiful and should be there to enjoy.
- I have lived in Portobello Road for 24 years and it is high time the Council controlled some of the appalling buskers who blight our lives.
- I hope you will seriously consider the impact buskers outside the Natural History Museum are having on the health of staff, and how it is negatively impacting on their working environment. Please enforce a PSPO on Exhibition Road outside the Natural History Museum.
- I see no need for us to be faced by extraneous noise wherever we go. It is an assault on one's senses.

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- I think it would be fantastic to introduce the PSPO to give peace and allow us to sit in our gardens and open windows without the non-stop annoyance of amplified music and busking. It is very hard to work or relax with the non-stop noise that can go on all day long into the evening.
- I very much hope that the proposed PSPO will be implemented.
- I work at the Natural History Museum, facing Exhibition Road, and have regular concentration problems due to the buskers on the street. There are about two to three buskers that come regularly and constantly play the same song, day after day. I strongly agree with the proposed PSPO and believe that many people that work in the same building as me would be relieved if the buskers are prohibited at all times.
- Important to give the police and local Council the powers to keep the streets safe.
- It has my full support. There seems to be no regulation for these street entertainers meaning the most terrible and disturbing noise/crowds etc. has been allowed for too long. I cannot state how much working time has been lost at my place of work in the last few years due to this disturbance.
- It is a great idea, but depends on enforcement.
- It pains me having to support the proposed PSPO, but nothing else has been effective, and the current situation is unsustainable for people working in my part of the Natural History Museum. I say it pains me, because I am an enthusiastic musician myself who has done a fair bit of busking over past years. The major difference is the introduction of high-volume amplification, and a form of pushy professionalism where a small number of commercial tunes are played over and over again, day after day. The passers-by hear this for a few minutes, whereas those working/living nearby have to live with it near-permanently.
- Music can completely change the atmosphere of an area, usually in a really positive way. I agree that it needs to be controlled so that residents are not adversely affected and buskers are not causing an obstruction or creating road safety issues, but it must be possible to do this without unfairly penalising the musicians or taking away the atmosphere they give to many places across the borough.
- Please adopt PSPO on Portobello Road just near fly over bridge as the guy is too loud with his drumming, too long keep drumming, and ranting passer by tourists and stall holders. Ask the Donuts shop just at the corner of Portobello market office.
- Please don't ban busking altogether, I love listening to some of singers in Thurloe Street and outside South Kensington Station. Limiting the volume and the time would be most helpful. Please don't forget the pedestrian tunnel under Exhibition Road. Sometimes it is physically painful to walk past a big sound system in there as it is a confined space and the audience is far more trapped. The sound also travels a much greater distance so it is difficult to get away from.
- Please for the love of god do something, loud repetitive buskers have made working conditions in my office unbearable for the past three years (since my contract began).
- Please include Museum Lane off Exhibition Road in the order - there are dangerous buskers there on a daily basis frequently resulting in crowds obstructing and stepping into the traffic. It also disturbs both residents and Museums' staff trying to work.
- Please stop them coming near residential premises. We resident can't move out or not be in our homes. The noise these buskers make is out of order and is a statutory noise nuisance. Sometimes, I can't even hear the phone ring in my home because they are so noisy. Why is that fair? Buskers are also rude and threatening. I was pushed by one just because I asked him to leave. Another one followed me home. Another one told me

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that he knew that he was disturbing residents but he wanted to make money and I should move out!

- Please, please do something. This is a major problem for multiple people. It is unfair to ignore the impact this has on our working lives. We cannot move from this location, buskers can.
- Portobello Market needs the support of the Council to protect the livelihoods of small businesses and market stall holders on Portobello Road Market from electric amplified speakers used by musicians that play regularly every week at the detriment of stall holders and businesses. Nothing wrong with free music but when they play for three hours or more with amps it really offends stall holders that pay weekly rent all year round to trade to make a living.
- The buskers at the south end of Exhibition Road have made our work-environment conditions at the Natural History Museum very difficult for a considerable time now. It needs to be addressed.
- The endless repetition is just as bad as the disruptive/unbearable noise. If a ban could be enforced within a certain distance of buildings and between 10 and 4, that would be great.
- The needs of the local businesses and residents should be paramount
- The situation on Thurloe Street is the worst and needs to be addressed urgently.
- They are pest to local businesses, and to residents but also an obstruction to foot traffic. They are not suited to the culture and atmosphere of the area. They do not belong in Kensington.
- This measure is desperately needed for the well-being of residents and businesses. The current situation in Tavistock Square is shocking.
- To repeat. I am against electrical amplification of street music/ entertainment. I believe that this ban should be borough wide excepting one off events licensed through the borough/ London Mayor's Office i.e. Carnival. Performers would still get to play on the streets of the borough but would have to do so without amplification. It would help them hone their craft as well as strike a balance between the competing interests of the boroughs residents/visitors/ tradespeople and the buskers themselves
- Very necessary - keep going please!
- Whilst our family believes that there is a need for the proposed PSPO, it is unclear how effective it will be without clear and well-publicised means of enforcement against offenders.
- It is shameful that the Council has done nothing to protect residents against buskers. I also don't understand why the council is proposing having buskers on Portobello Road, which is such a narrow road, which means that buskers are way too close to our homes. Buskers often stand right in front of my building, even though the Council's noise team has said that they are committing a noise nuisance. The number of buskers also need to be limited (not just the type of instruments or amplifiers). A band of eight men used to come in front of my house (even though I and other neighbours asked them not to). They had no amplifier or mike, but the noise team said they were committing a noise nuisance!
- It's really important to recognise that protection is required for residents from constant noise pollution, which is a real source of anxiety and stress to those exposed to it. It's incredibly distracting as well, so that focus, and concentration on the simplest of tasks becomes a real battle.
- Noise pollution has to tackle as soon as possible, especially on Saturday because Portobello is full of tourists and busker makes it difficult to walk.

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- Please do this! And please help us in other boroughs first by doing so and second by making other boroughs see that it is the way forward and can work.
- Please see my statement in Q1. I would like to add that Notting Hill Carnival is now approaching and, again, we long-suffering residents are driven away from our homes - not only because of the noise but because of the crowds and the fact that we cannot access our local facilities and transport. Carnival, as lovely as it used to be - is now a major event, publicised internationally and it's way too big for the streets of Notting Hill. and should be relocated to a park or Wormwood Scrubs. I mention this in case a PSPO would be relevant in this case.
- The noise from the so called entertainers outside Earl's Court tube is intolerable. They need to be banned. The loud amplified music carries to the local homes and is extremely disturbing.
- While regulated street entertainment can have a positive impact on local neighbourhoods, the number of buskers and street performers next to Harrods continues to have a detrimental impact on visitors to the business and local residents impacted by noise pollution. As well as this, there is an increasing public safety risk caused by congestion and overcrowding in an extremely busy section of the Borough. Street entertainment seems to be under-regulated, due to the high number and close proximity of numerous street performers in an already busy thoroughfare. We would support the introduction of the PSPO in this area to better regulate street entertainment and ensure the safety and satisfaction of Harrods visitors, employees and local neighbours.
- Just please stop the buskers, oh and the beggars and the drug users whilst you're at it.
- For our sanity.

Move the problem

- I would want to know that making restrictions in one area did not simply push the problem into adjacent areas, such as those around Imperial College.
- Please consider the impact of the busking moving 100 metres further away from the banned area.
- Unless the proposed PSPO cover vital areas such as outside Gloucester Road station restrictions will push buskers to congregate in these areas. Please include Gloucester Road in your list of PSPO.

Negative impact of buskers/busking

- A time restriction should be put in place along with a ban on amplified voice and instruments. Buskers can make tension in the area, I love music and it has been my whole life, bad music makes for uncomfortable living. People walk by and hear perhaps a few minutes, we only hear certain frequencies, on and on for sometimes hours. Absolute torture.
- All of Portobello Road should be busking free, for the residents, business owners and stall holders whose livelihoods are genuinely negatively impacted by the noise, crowds and confusion that occurs - customers just walk away, tenants leave, residents can even hear through the double glazing!
- All so called "busking" should be banned. We residents don't want it especially those living close to musical begging hot spots. And please start considering the rights of residents and council tax payers as a priority and as a starting point for discussion - not how you can facilitate those who want to disrupt our lives and who are no more than beggars.

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- As previously stated the key is to find spots where busking isn't going to disturb anyone, it's not to accommodate buskers who are in it just for the money. It's not fair to expect residents to put up with noise that they haven't chosen and don't want to hear for hours on end. It's not fair to market traders to see buskers make money, block access to their stalls, but not have to pay anything or compensate anyone. There is already evidence that busking can amount to a statutory noise nuisance (please ask the environmental health team for this), so the Council cannot allow a noise nuisance to happen. Residents and people who work in Kensington and Chelsea matter more than buskers and we need protection. Robust enforcement will also be needed. Having to rely on the noise and nuisance team won't be enough as they are overstretched and often cannot respond on time. The Council should also consider organising a busking festival, perhaps in the Council courtyard, if it wants to give some buskers an outlet.
- [Unclear] are also residents here - who actually live here - and not only masses of tourists! We feel we have also a right and need to be using our streets in the neighbourhood, undisturbed and also uncluttered - is this being garbage or extreme noise.
- I believe that as council tax payers the residents many of whom have lived for decades in an area they love and call home need to be free from the tyranny of loud noise which is often accompanied by antisocial behaviour. Why should our children be robbed of sleep or a peaceful environment in which to study or relax? Why should older people be driven to distraction and possible mental health problems by a seemingly never ending wall of noise which permeates their entire residences. Why should we be told this is what to expect because we live in 'Portobello' which is a 'vibrant area. We accept the Notting Hill Carnival and can choose to join in or leave for the weekend when Carnival comes to the area. Why should we be subjected to Carnival levels of noise every evening and weekend. If street musicians need to play can they not be more regulated to play further away from each other, restricted to playing at certain times and in certain designated commercial / non-residential areas?
- I have worked as a researcher in the Earth Sciences Department at the Natural History Museum for over a year, and my work is disrupted on a daily basis by street buskers. There are buskers playing all afternoon, every afternoon. In particular, there is a saxophone player and a steel drum player who play every day. I have specific issues with: * The loudness of the playing. Many of the buskers use amplifiers, and even those that do not can still be heard loudly from within my office. This noise is impossible to drown out, even if using noise-cancelling headphones. * The repetitive songs. Some buskers have been playing the same five(ish) songs for over a year. * The length of time for which they are playing- the busking usually starts at lunchtime and is still continuing when I leave work at 6pm. * The poor quality of the playing. The constant noise disruption caused by this busking means I am unable to concentrate properly on my work, and ultimately affects the quality of work I am able to produce. It seems incredibly unfair that the work output of a whole science department can be impacted in this way by the actions of a few individuals. I strongly support the proposed PSPO, as it would have a very positive impact on the day-to-day work of the many members of staff in this department.
- I hope you will seriously consider the impact buskers outside the Natural History Museum are having on the health of staff, and how it is negatively impacting on their working environment. Please enforce a PSPO on Exhibition Road outside the Natural History Museum.
- I think it would be fantastic to introduce the PSPO to give peace and allow us to sit in our gardens and open windows without the non-stop annoyance of amplified music and

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busking. It is very hard to work or relax with the nonstop noise that can go one all day long into the evening.

- I work at the Natural History Museum and the busking really hinders me from working. I understand that this is part of the 'London culture' and I fully support it for that reason but in all honesty it is preventing me from doing my work. Even if they just moved from the side of Exhibition Road closest to the museum to the other side of the road that would be okay. Or even the other side of Cromwell Road!
- I work at the Natural History Museum, facing Exhibition Road, and have regular concentration problems due to the buskers on the street. There are about two to three buskers that come regularly and constantly play the same song, day after day. I strongly agree with the proposed PSPO and believe that many people that work in the same building as me would be relieved if the buskers are prohibited at all times.
- If you really want "world's biggest talent platform" look at the locations where the platform is successful and follow their lead. Rehearsals, agreements signed and enforcement with the "talented" performers, performers who respond to the area such as LaRamba's silent salutes. And stop the gang controls of the buskers as we see on Kensington High Street.
- It has my full support. There seems to be no regulation for these street entertainers meaning the most terrible and disturbing noise/crowds etc. has been allowed for too long. I cannot state how much working time has been lost at my place of work in the last few years due to this disturbance.
- It is not only a nuisance issue but a health and safety one as well - myself and my colleagues' mental health is being adversely affected by constant very loud repetition of the same three or four melodies day after day, while we are trying to work.
- It obstructs street trading, people crowd, inconsiderate of others, very poorly affects street trading business and safety.
- It's not bad at the moment but can get loud during nice weather.
- Living or working close to where buskers have taken to performing means listening to a limited repertoire over and over again--which is actually a form of psychological torture used to break human beings. It is completely unfair to inflict it on local residents.
- One of the worst cases is the drummer just South of the Railway Bridge on Portobello Rd, who plays for five hours at a time in the road and hurls abuse at tourists on Saturdays.
- Please adopt PSPO on Portobello Road just near fly over bridge as the guy is too loud with his drumming, too long keep drumming, and ranting passer by tourists and stall holders. Ask the Donuts shop just at the corner of Portobello market office.
- Please for the love of god do something, loud repetitive buskers have made working conditions in my office unbearable for the past three years (since my contract began).
- Please include Museum Lane off Exhibition Road in the order - there are dangerous buskers there on a daily basis frequently resulting in crowds obstructing and stepping into the traffic. It also disturbs both residents and Museums' staff trying to work.
- Please stop them coming near residential premises. We resident can't move out or not be in our homes. The noise these buskers make is out of order and is a statutory noise nuisance. Sometimes, I can't even hear the phone ring in my home because they are so noisy. Why is that fair? Buskers are also rude and threatening. I was pushed by one just because I asked him to leave. Another one followed me home. Another one told me that he knew that he was disturbing residents but he wanted to make money and I should move out!

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- Please, please do something. This is a major problem for multiple people. It is unfair to ignore the impact this has on our working lives. We cannot move from this location, buskers can.
- Portobello Road by Elgin Crescent also needs to be addressed. Buskers need to take into consideration how market stall holders feel when the music is so loud and you are trying to serve customers, you end up shouting. Then when you ask them to turn the volume down you get a lot of abuse. This really is not fair.
- Street performers in South Kensington in front of the tube entrance and on Exhibition Road cheapen and despoil the experience of a visit to the most important congregation of fine museums in the world. Millions were recently spent by RBKC and the museums to improve the streetscape and clean the architecture of the most important buildings in London. All this effort is degraded and nullified by noisy, annoying busking, totally devoid of artistic merit. Please stop it.
- Thank you for taking this seriously. These nuisances have had an adverse effect on our productivity and job satisfaction for a long time.
- The buskers are having a significant negative impact on my life for three years now. Where work has buskers outside almost all day every day. It is the same three or four buskers who all have amps or loud instruments (steel drums) and they stay there playing the same three - four songs on loop for hours (sometimes five hours at a time). I cannot concentrate at work; I am finding myself walking out of shops/supermarkets/bars if one of those songs come on. I can't be around anymore listening to that song, it causes great stress and I can't work properly. I am fed up of it.
- The buskers at the south end of Exhibition Road have made our work-environment conditions at the Natural History Museum very difficult for a considerable time now. It needs to be addressed.
- The buskers have been asked politely to tone down or vary their routines, but consistently show they have no concern for the wellbeing or comfort of anyone working near to their performance areas.
- The interests of residents and businesses who pay council tax and rates should take priority over nuisance caused by buskers/street performers who pay nothing and have a negative effect on the earnings of businesses and stall holders and create a negative environment for residents.
- The musical quality of the busking is dreadful, such that it is a noise nuisance in itself. Apart from the noise nuisance to houses nearby, keeping children and the sick awake; blocking the pavement for access and egress to the station at an incredibly stupid thing to allow. Busking only has negative connotations.
- The noise from buskers is extremely annoying and disruptive to my work.
- They are pest to local businesses, and to residents but also an obstruction to foot traffic. They are not suited to the culture and atmosphere of the area. They do not belong in Kensington.
- This is a serious problem that affects businesses and residents. We are plagued by these performers in Exhibition Road.
- We love this area and we bought our house feeling we want to be part to this special community, understanding the market and the various entertainment venues would generate some noise but within limits and timetables. Unfortunately, after six years I'm totally disappointed, the owners of these bars don't really care about running their business paying the due attention to the neighbours, they know they are joking or untouchable! It's frustrating to feel we are not treated as all other residents of the Royal Borough.

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- Busking can be a pleasure and an enhancement of the street scene, but it has become intrusive, painfully, and potentially dangerously, loud, and in some cases there is organised and aggressive appropriation of sites and a venal and anti-social approach entirely counter to the spontaneous spirit of busking-proper.
- Constant loud amplified music and drums definitely have an impact on residents lives.
- It is shameful that the Council has done nothing to protect residents against buskers. I also don't understand why the council is proposing having buskers on Portobello Road, which is such a narrow road, which means that buskers are way too close to our homes. Buskers often stand right in front of my building, even though the Council's noise team has said that they are committing a noise nuisance. The number of buskers also need to be limited (not just the type of instruments or amplifiers). A band of eight men used to come in front of my house (even though I and other neighbours asked them not to). They had no amplifier or mike, but the noise team said they were committing a noise nuisance!
- It's really important to recognise that protection is required for residents from constant noise pollution, which is a real source of anxiety and stress to those exposed to it. It's incredibly distracting as well, so that focus, and concentration on the simplest of tasks becomes a real battle.
- My family is frequently kept awake at night by buskers at Earl's Court Station playing through amplifiers until after midnight. We are also subjected to a racket during the day. These people are not street entertainers, they are a public nuisance. I am fed of hearing the music from Dr Zhivago on repeat. The Council should give licences to genuine street entertainers in public spaces not anywhere near residential areas.
- Noise pollution has to tackle as soon as possible, especially on Saturday because Portobello is full of tourists and busker makes it difficult to walk.
- Please see my statement in Q1. I would like to add that Notting Hill Carnival is now approaching and, again, we long-suffering residents are driven away from our homes - not only because of the noise but because of the crowds and the fact that we cannot access our local facilities and transport. Carnival, as lovely as it used to be - is now a major event, publicised internationally and it's way too big for the streets of Notting Hill. and should be relocated to a park or Wormwood Scrubs. I mention this in case a PSPO would be relevant in this case.
- The impact of amplified busking cannot be underestimated. Being forced to listen to busking all day, every day, inside my home, being unable to ever shut out this noise intrusion has impacted hugely and negatively on my mental health. Even with primary and secondary windows shut I can always hear buskers - seven days a week, all day - it impacts on my health hugely.
- The interests of residents should take utmost precedence over a craven few - largely EU citizens - creating disturbance on our streets for personal financial gain. Most of this activity is not 'busking' at all in the accepted sense, but musical begging.
- The noise from the so called entertainers outside Earl's Court tube is intolerable. They need to be banned. The loud amplified music carries to the local homes and is extremely disturbing.
- While regulated street entertainment can have a positive impact on local neighbourhoods, the number of buskers and street performers next to Harrods continues to have a detrimental impact on visitors to the business and local residents impacted by noise pollution. As well as this, there is an increasing public safety risk caused by congestion and overcrowding in an extremely busy section of the Borough. Street entertainment seems to be under-regulated, due to the high number and close proximity of numerous street performers in an already busy thoroughfare. We would support the

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introduction of the PSPO in this area to better regulate street entertainment and ensure the safety and satisfaction of Harrods visitors, employees and local neighbours.

- Having buskers on the junction of Westbourne Grove and Portobello is massively affecting business for the stalls on Westbourne Grove as it diverts attention away from us.
- I am not musical and find the imposition of other people's 'music' on my existence a gross intrusion. Residents, business and visitors must be able to hear each other speak at all times. I feel sorry for residents unable to escape the buskers. It's one thing to hear them as a passer-by; another to suffer them for hours on end.
- My main concern, as an antiques market stallholder, is the level of noise as sometimes it is impossible to converse with my customers when buskers play behind me. However, I am generally in favour of encouraging street entertainers.

Notting Hill Carnival

- Please see my statement in Q1. I would like to add that Notting Hill Carnival is now approaching and, again, we long-suffering residents are driven away from our homes - not only because of the noise but because of the crowds and the fact that we cannot access our local facilities and transport. Carnival, as lovely as it used to be - is now a major event, publicised internationally and it's way too big for the streets of Notting Hill. and should be relocated to a park or Wormwood Scrubs. I mention this in case a PSPO would be relevant in this case.

Other

- I am happy to hear street musicians but I don't agree with them coming from abroad to perform. I would prefer our own talent to be promoted.
- I have been living in London for 20 years and I find your point about "proud tradition of being a global powerhouse for music" very subjective if not authoritarian. Why London as a community should be more into music in public spaces than say meditation? A public space is where people live together. If people feel they want to maintain or develop any "proud tradition" there are specific places to do so: homes, clubs, functions in pubs or restaurants and private venues. London offers them the freedom to do so. London is far more into freedoms and respect than into music.
- I think I've probably made myself clear.
- In addition to my previous comment it would also stop people using the roads as and public spaces here as a toilet.
- The concern for how neat, organised and pretty everything looks is a waste of time and money. If it's not litter, don't worry about it.
- The problem is that one is not necessarily aware of this happening in quite a few of the areas as I don't go to them that often and maybe when no-one is playing anything.
- Insurance obligatory.

Positive impact of music/busking

- Diversity of art and music is a wonderful thing and is very much welcomed within our Cultural Quarter, all that I would like to see happen is the PSPO regulate the areas in which creative people can perform to limit the amount of disruption to businesses, residential dwellings and the general public.
- I do like street entertainment; I don't have anything against it. If it has affected me occasionally (I work in Exhibition Road) I have played my own music in my headphones

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and I didn't consider it a big deal. However, I understand that this may affect other people working and leaving in the area.

- I have actually never seen street entertainment with loudspeakers in South Kensington (after 40 years) but I love buskers in the underground.
- I think well managed street entertainment adds to the vibrancy of an area. I would not want to see a PSPO used to sterilise the streets.
- Music can completely change the atmosphere of an area, usually in a really positive way. I agree that it needs to be controlled so that residents are not adversely affected and buskers are not causing an obstruction or creating road safety issues, but it must be possible to do this without unfairly penalising the musicians or taking away the atmosphere they give to many places across the borough.
- Please support art and music all over our wonderful borough.
- Start by looking at the positive contribution that street entertainers make to our lives and the lives of many visitors to the borough. A PSPO should only effect those who constitute a genuine nuisance. It should not restrict - or worse, repel - the rest.
- The street entertainment in this area is in suitable places and at suitable times. Busking - and the quality of the buskers - is what makes Portobello and Kensington in general a vibrant and sought after area. I don't believe there's any need for any anti-music proposals.
- This is a good and entertaining public music service and just needs to be controlled so that the best entertainers can perform and make some money at it.
- As I have previously explained, prohibiting street performing will deprive the local area of talent and entertainment, as well as depriving the performers of a space to express themselves and their art. It takes a lot of courage to publicly perform in front of strangers, who could say anything to you, and these performers should not be discouraged from doing so. If any measures are to be put in place, it should be focussed round ensuring performers are not harassed by members of the public.
- I have no objection to street entertainment as long as the quality is good, it is not offensive, intrusive or objectionably loud, and located in an acceptable public area. Good street entertainment can be pleasant to see and listen to.
- Please drop PSPO immediately and ensure that such drastic, undemocratic options will not be considered anymore. Please speak to artists - dialogue and proper licensing and care for having enough venues where artists can perform is enough. Please treat artists as partners not criminals. Every star that ever came out of UK- David Bowie, Queen, T Rex, The Beatles once started busking and playing on the streets.
- Quality buskers can provide a lot of pleasure!
- Street entertainment brings life to our area. The proposed PSPO does not address any of the real problems facing RBKC - Grenfell, anyone? We need to hang on to what is left of our local identity with the increasing homogenisation of Kensington due to tourism and "land banking": The PSPO will just help this homogenisation process along.
- We need more of it. More local festivals, screenings and public events to liven up the dying streets. Especially at Christmas, when Ken High Street looks utterly miserable and forlorn. Less prohibition, more help and support from the Council.
- My main concern, as an antiques market stallholder, is the level of noise as sometimes it is impossible to converse with my customers when buskers play behind me. However, I am generally in favour of encouraging street entertainers.

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Problem in pubs too

- Musical entertainment in pubs in the borough is often as loud as street entertainment and can often be loudly heard outside of the pub. I live opposite The Uxbridge Arms, Uxbridge Street and this is pretty much always the case when they have live music.

PSPO restrictions

- A time restriction should be put in place along with a ban on amplified voice and instruments. Buskers can make tension in the area, I love music and it has been my whole life, bad music makes for uncomfortable living. People walk by and hear perhaps a few minutes, we only hear certain frequencies, on and on for sometimes hours. Absolute torture.
- All amplification, mains or battery, should be banned.
- All so called "busking" should be banned. We residents don't want it especially those living close to musical begging hot spots. And please start considering the rights of residents and council tax payers as a priority and as a starting point for discussion - not how you can facilitate those who want to disrupt our lives and who are no more than beggars.
- As a street trader I can't wait for this order to come into force you must help us before I go insane.
- Busking is one thing but amplified sound is entirely another. It is excessively disturbing and is now appearing in tube trains as well. Surely there must be a reasonable compromise.
- Certain instruments should be banned completely from above ground sites at all times: steel drums and saxophones, and other brass instruments. All amplifiers/backing tracks/microphones etc. should be banned at all times from above ground sites. No busking should be allowed within earshot of offices at any time during office hours, or residencies during the night. Street entertainers make a fortune in undeclared income (ca. £100-200 per day) and licences should be at an appropriate level (min. £100 per week).
- I believe that as council tax payers the residents many of whom have lived for decades in an area they love and call home need to be free from the tyranny of loud noise which is often accompanied by antisocial behaviour. Why should our children be robbed of sleep or a peaceful environment in which to study or relax? Why should older people be driven to distraction and possible mental health problems by a seemingly never ending wall of noise which permeates their entire residences. Why should we be told this is what to expect because we live in 'Portobello' which is a 'vibrant area. We accept the Notting Hill Carnival and can choose to join in or leave for the weekend when Carnival comes to the area. Why should we be subjected to Carnival levels of noise every evening and weekend. If street musicians need to play can they not be more regulated to play further away from each other, restricted to playing at certain times and in certain designated commercial / non-residential areas?
- I do not feel busking should be banned at all. There should be standards as introduced before. A lot of folk musicians used to busk and the expectations were high on both sides. It does not always have to be a problem if it is regulated in some way. There is some talent out there but the non-musicians are giving busking a bad name.
- If their playing was restricted to between 3pm and 5pm I think that there would be far fewer complaints.

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- In my opinion, loud, electrified/amplified busking is the problem, not busking itself. For instance, conducted on the acoustic guitar or accordion, busking has no harmful impact upon the environment.
- Music actually sounds nicer if it's not too loud. When it makes a head buzz, it ceases to be music.
- My only concern is that busking is a livelihood for many of the people who busk, so a complete ban may well have a severe impact on them. I support limiting busking to one hour in a given location, along with banning any artificial amplification or speakers.
- Please don't ban busking altogether, I love listening to some of singers in Thurloe Street and outside South Kensington Station. Limiting the volume and the time would be most helpful. Please don't forget the pedestrian tunnel under Exhibition Road. Sometimes it is physically painful to walk past a big sound system in there as it is a confined space and the audience is far more trapped. The sound also travels a much greater distance so it is difficult to get away from.
- Portobello Market needs the support of the Council to protect the livelihoods of small businesses and market stall holders on Portobello Road Market from electric amplified speakers used by musicians that play regularly every week at the detriment of stall holders and businesses. Nothing wrong with free music but when they play for three hours or more with amps it really offends stall holders that pay weekly rent all year round to trade to make a living.
- The endless repetition is just as bad as the disruptive/unbearable noise. If a ban could be enforced within a certain distance of buildings and between 10 and 4, that would be great.
- To repeat. I am against electrical amplification of street music/ entertainment. I believe that this ban should be borough wide excepting one off events licensed through the borough/ London Mayor's Office i.e. Carnival. Performers would still get to play on the streets of the borough but would have to do so without amplification. It would help them hone their craft as well as strike a balance between the competing interests of the boroughs residents/visitors/ tradespeople and the buskers themselves
- Busking is a fine old tradition. Amplified busking is definitely not. In a way, the problem is new technology that permits powerful portable amplifiers, which are also relatively cheap - compared with how much buskers can make in a day - making confiscation less of a deterrent.

Quality of buskers

- Buskers who can play an instrument are welcome, can you introduce some sort of criterion for talent?
- Has anyone considered auditioning buskers as they do in Paris? One of the biggest annoyances now, apart from grossly inappropriate volume and poor quality amplification is the dire quality of (any sort) of 'music'. Reasonable compliance with controls and a better standard of music would not be such an imposition on audience or performer.
- I am not against guys doing balloons outside the Science Museum or the steel band player on Notting Hill Gate but I object to one guy playing badly the same awful tune for hours. If the Police in uniform would come to the busy affected areas: it would scare off illegal immigrant players and hopefully bad players.
- I do feel that the street entertainers buskers should be vetted as some of the acts are very noisy and not very good.
- I do not feel busking should be banned at all. There should be standards as introduced before. A lot of folk musicians used to busk and the expectations were high on both

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sides. It does not always have to be a problem if it is regulated in some way. There is some talent out there but the non-musicians are giving busking a bad name.

- I wouldn't want to prevent all busking, just bad or overly loud busking.
- If you really want "world's biggest talent platform" look at the locations where the platform is successful and follow their lead. Rehearsals, agreements signed and enforcement with the "talented" performers, performers who respond to the area such as LaRamba's silent salutes. And stop the gang controls of the buskers as we see on Kensington High Street.
- It would be nice if this was actually entertaining and showcased talent and creativity rather than a form of begging to adequate musical accompaniment by a player being 'run' by a gang master.
- One aspect is quality of street performers, there are times when street performers are simply traditional beggars who just have an instrument to make a noise - there should be some action in this area.
- Quality of the entertainers is what matters - some of the buskers aren't providing entertainment - no more than scruffy beggars whereas there are many who are a joy to listen to and provide colour to the area - some have been so good that I have booked them for parties in our communal garden.
- Some kind of policing is needed to bring quality entertainment to the streets of RBKC. There is a man in Portobello who just has amplified music and pretends to be playing a guitar. He invites children to join him and he obviously has substance abuse problems. It is worrying to see him with the children as he does not seem well.
- The musical quality of the busking is dreadful, such that it is a noise nuisance in itself. Apart from the noise nuisance to houses nearby, keeping children and the sick awake; blocking the pavement for access and egress to the station at an incredibly stupid thing to allow. Busking only has negative connotations.
- The quality of performance can be so poor that I regard them as a public nuisance competing with traffic noise, pavement noise from pubs and bars. The public and the residents affected by this noise need to have some confidence that this is being managed fairly and residents' opinions should take precedence when there is debate about the noise issue.
- The romantic introduction about street performance (to the effect that it is the biggest talent show in the world) is simply untrue for RBKC. I am not aware that a single notable performer has emerged from our borough's street busking scene, whereas most are mediocre, some are virtually talentless, and few are truly entertaining. This is too often begging by another name.

Repetition

- Could you please ask the harp player in the TfL South Kensington tunnel to introduce another song into his repertoire? The only one he can play (and he plays it incessantly) is the theme from "Titanic".

Survey

- I have just written an undiplomatic email to the Team at RBKC working on this. Your questionnaire is absent any controls save PSPO. I see the police as having abandoned their existing powers. A police force that insists on the role of social workers; neglects people like me for vagrants.
- Thank you very much for surveying the public who live in these places. It is overdue and it is appreciated.

Appendix three: Survey comments

- This questionnaire is totally biased. It starts from the presumption that street entertainment is bad and asks for negative comment. It at no point asks for positive opinions about street entertainment. It asks people why a PSPO should not be introduced, not why it should be.
- This survey is terribly written, biased and must have been created by people who know what answer they want to get.

Take other measures

- Certain instruments should be banned completely from above ground sites at all times: steel drums and saxophones, and other brass instruments. All amplifiers/backing tracks/microphones etc. should be banned at all times from above ground sites. No busking should be allowed within earshot of offices at any time during office hours, or residencies during the night. Street entertainers make a fortune in undeclared income (ca. £100-200 per day) and licences should be at an appropriate level (min. £100 per week).
- Have the entertainers register and keep the registration on then for ID. Stop the drunk entertainers.
- I think licensing is the way to go though not expensive prohibitive licensing which would in effect ban those who cannot afford it, but better policing of it.
- I would impose a photographic ID document to be carried with them at all times to make sure that the license will not be passed from one to another.
- Suggest you apply resources to enforcing current laws and regulations. Effective enforcement not more regulation, please.
- A licence would control numbers and would also be conditional on observing the final terms of the consultation.
- My family is frequently kept awake at night by buskers at Earl's Court Station playing through amplifiers until after midnight. We are also subjected to a racket during the day. These people are not street entertainers, they are a public nuisance. I am fed up of hearing the music from Dr Zhivago on repeat. The Council should give licences to genuine street entertainers in public spaces not anywhere near residential areas.
- Please drop PSPO immediately and ensure that such drastic, undemocratic options will not be considered anymore. Please speak to artists - dialogue and proper licensing and care for having enough venues where artists can perform is enough. Please treat artists as partners not criminals. Every star that ever came out of UK- David Bowie, Queen, T Rex, The Beatles once started busking and playing on the streets.
- Think about how to maintain quality of busking without having to eradicate it!