

# **Busking and Street Entertainment 2020**

## **Consultation on proposed variations to Public Spaces Protection Orders**

Report written January 2021

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
**KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA**



### Introduction

In July 2019 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) were introduced in certain areas of Kensington and Chelsea to address the detrimental impact some performances were having on residents and local businesses. The PSPOs have reduced busking complaints by 54 per cent in the first three months (July to Oct 2019) and between July and February by 15.5 per cent, compared to the same period in 2018/19.

A six-month review of the PSPOs was undertaken to review the effectiveness of the PSPOs and to identify if any variations are required to deal with displacement and remaining high impact areas. A key decision report set out the findings of the six-month review and details the resulting proposed variations to the PSPOs, and the supporting evidence for each variation.

These proposed variations which can be viewed on the [Council's website](#) were the subject of this consultation exercise with residents, buskers/street entertainers and other interested stakeholders.

### Methodology

On the 13 November 2020 we placed information on the six month review and proposed variations to the PSPOs on the Council's website. The website page included a link to the key decision report and detailed information on the proposed variations, including maps. There was also a link to an online survey, for those that wished to provide feedback. The survey was largely qualitative with opportunity to comment on any aspect of the proposed variations or the impact these might have. The survey also gathered demographic information of respondents in order to understand more about those that responded.

The survey was promoted to residents, residents' associations, businesses, street entertainers and other stakeholders via a variety of methods. These included use of social media, the Council's website, direct emails and email briefings.

By the closing date of 8 January 2021, a total of 80 responses had been received.

### Report and appendices

This report contains an analysis of survey responses. Graphs show percentage figures, where graphs do not total 100 per cent – this will be down to computer rounding, where respondents have chosen not to respond or where respondents have been able to select more than one answer.

Appendices to this report contain data tables and all survey comments made by respondents.

### Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all those that have taken the time to respond to the consultation.

### For more information

For information on the results please contact **Gary Wilson, Consultation and Insight Manager** on 020 7361 3616 or e-mail on [gary.wilson@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:gary.wilson@rbkc.gov.uk)

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## Consultation findings: Comments by respondents

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### Comments made by respondents

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed variations via the survey. Comments made have been grouped together by theme (many comments relate to more than one theme and therefore have been counted under each theme they relate to). The table below details the most common themes and the following pages contain examples of comments made under these themes, all comments can be found in appendix 2.

### Themes of comments

Themes containing the most comments were:

- ‘Against the variations or variations would have detrimental impact on buskers’ (46 comments)
- ‘Positive impact/comments on busking’ (23 comments)
- ‘In favour of variations’ (13 comments)
- ‘Negative impact of busking’ (11 comments)

Themes are detailed in the table below and themes are explored in more detail on the following pages, a full list of comments can be seen in appendix two.

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Against the variations or variations would have detrimental impact on buskers	46	Enforcement	2
Positive impact/comments on busking	23	45 minute performance time limit (against this)	1
In favour of variations (either in their entirety or at specific locations)	13	Improvements since previous PSPO came in	1
Negative impact of busking (e.g. noise)	11	Justification for change	1
Develop a strategy involving all stakeholders	10	Lack of evidence or questioning evidence	1
Further extensions needed/suggested	8	Licensing system	1
Use other powers to regulate/control	7	Providing busking pitches	1

### Summary of comments and themes

#### Against the variations or variations would have detrimental impact on buskers (46 comments)

A total of 46 respondents commented that they were against the variations or that the variations would have a detrimental impact on buskers. Examples of comments can be seen below:

*“I’m totally opposed to these curtailments to freedom of expression. Street performances add to the cultural heritage of any place. There are already enough legislations to deal with any form of anti-social behaviour. Leave musicians and performers alone.”*

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

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## Consultation findings: Comments by respondents

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*“Busking should not be criminalised, it brings vibrancy and culture.”*

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

*“Most people enjoy hearing live music on the streets, especially in these times when it can't be heard elsewhere. Also, musicians are facing a desperate struggle for survival with other sources of income cut off. Please show humanity here, and not yield to the small minority of complainers with loud voices.”*

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

*“Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.”*

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

### **Positive impact/comments on busking (23 comments)**

A total of 23 respondents made comments about the positive impact of busking. Examples of comments can be seen below:

*“I fully support street entertainers and buskers. They are an integral part of our societies and providing they do not cause a nuisance to have every right to make our streets more vibrant. I often visit London on business and enjoy listening to them. They are essential and should be supported to carry on their right to perform.”*

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

*“The proposals outlined here are extreme and certainly do not reflect the feedback and information obtained from the survey. Buskers are most welcomed and enjoyed by the majority of people and there needs to be a balance sought to ensure this continues. I am a singer songwriter busker who will be greatly impacted by the severity of the proposed changes.”*

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

*“I enjoy listening to buskers in the tunnel between South Kensington Station and the museums. Please do not restrict busking.”*

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

### **In favour of variations (either in their entirety or at specific locations) (13 comments)**

A total of 13 respondents commented that they were in favour of the variations. Examples of comments can be seen below:

*“In support of them. The detrimental effect on locals overweighs the claim that they attract visitors/benefit the experience of guests to the borough.”*

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

*“My family and I fully support making into a red zone the stretch of Exhibition Road from the Science Museum up to Imperial College Road, which is currently part of the purple zone. Residents have been disturbed by buskers multiple times - those residents who live in a number of blocks of flats on this stretch of road, as well as in Princes Gate mews houses. Please implement this proposal. Thank you.”*

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

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## Consultation findings: Comments by respondents

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*“I am very supportive of the changes proposed around Exhibition Road namely making into a red zone the stretch of Exhibition Road from the Science Museum up to Imperial College Road which was previously included within the purple zone. There has been repeated disturbance for residents from buskers in this area - multiple blocks of flats are on this stretch of road and a Mews gives off it into which sound is funnelled.”*

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Negative impact of busking (e.g. noise) (11 comments)**

A total of 11 respondents commented about the negative impact of busking. Examples of comments can be seen below:

*“Busking on the streets should not be allowed. The people block the pavement, harass the locals. Since Covid-19 came around, none have worn masks. They take down the tone of the area.”*

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

*“The noise is unbearable.”*

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Develop a strategy involving all stakeholders (10 comments)**

Ten respondents commented that they would like to see a strategy developed involving all stakeholders. An example of comments made can be seen below:

*“RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so.”*

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

### **Further extensions needed/suggested (eight comments)**

Eight respondents would like to see extensions to the PSPO zones. An example of comments made can be seen below:

*“On the Gloucester Road proposal, which I fully support, there is a strong risk that buskers will position themselves around the corners - Courtfield Road and Cromwell Road, by the mall entrance, and/or elsewhere along either side of Gloucester Road. Would it not be sensible modestly to extend the proposed area?”*

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Use other powers to regulate/control (seven comments)**

Seven respondents would like to see other powers used to regulate or control busking. Examples of comments can be seen below:

*“Draconian regulations are never the preferred method to control busking. PSPOs and their one fix for all situations generally cause more problems than they solve. There are already effective laws to control antisocial buskers without resorting to a blanket ban.”*

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

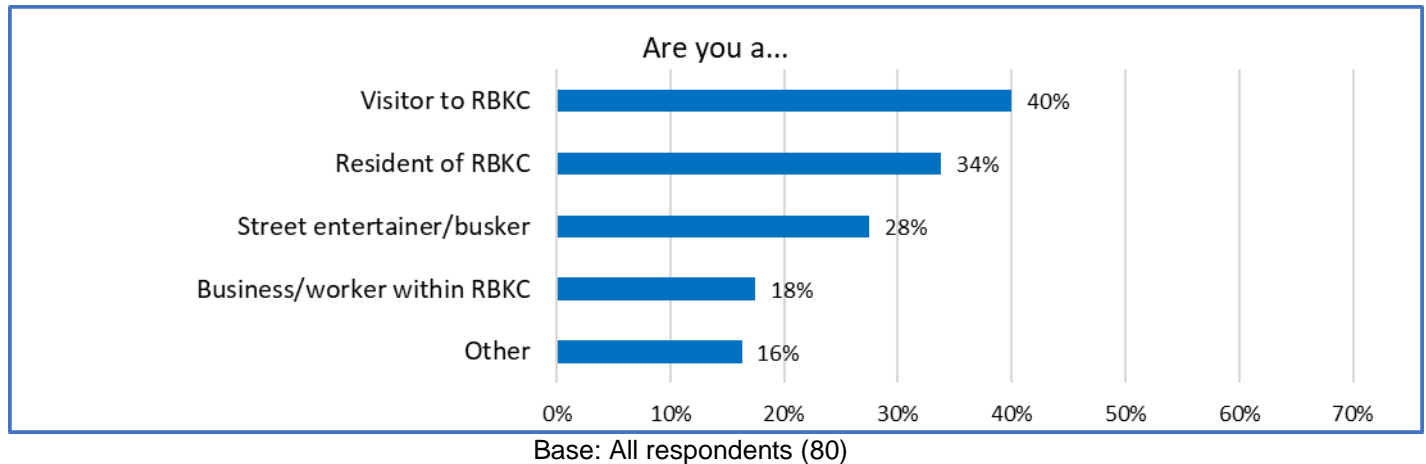
## Consultation findings: Demographics

### Demographics

Respondents to the survey were asked a series of questions about themselves in order to better understand who had participated in the consultation exercise. Data tables of responses can be found in appendix one.

#### About the respondent

A total of 40 per cent of respondents were visitors to Kensington and Chelsea. Just over a third (34 per cent) indicated that they were residents of the borough; whilst over a quarter (28 per cent) indicated that they were a street entertainer/busker.



#### Postcode analysis

Respondents were asked to supply their postcode. Of the 80 respondents, 75 supplied a full, valid postcode that could be matched to a UK postcode. A total of 24 of these postcodes were from within Kensington and Chelsea and 51 were from other locations, across London and further afield.

Tables below show the ward of residence of Kensington and Chelsea residents and the local authority areas where responses have been reached from (table shows local authority areas with two or more responses).

Kensington and Chelsea Ward	Number of responses
Brompton & Hans Town	6
Courtfield	5
Colville	4
Campden	3
Abingdon	1
Chelsea Riverside	1
Golborne	1
Pembridge	1
Redcliffe	1
Stanley	1

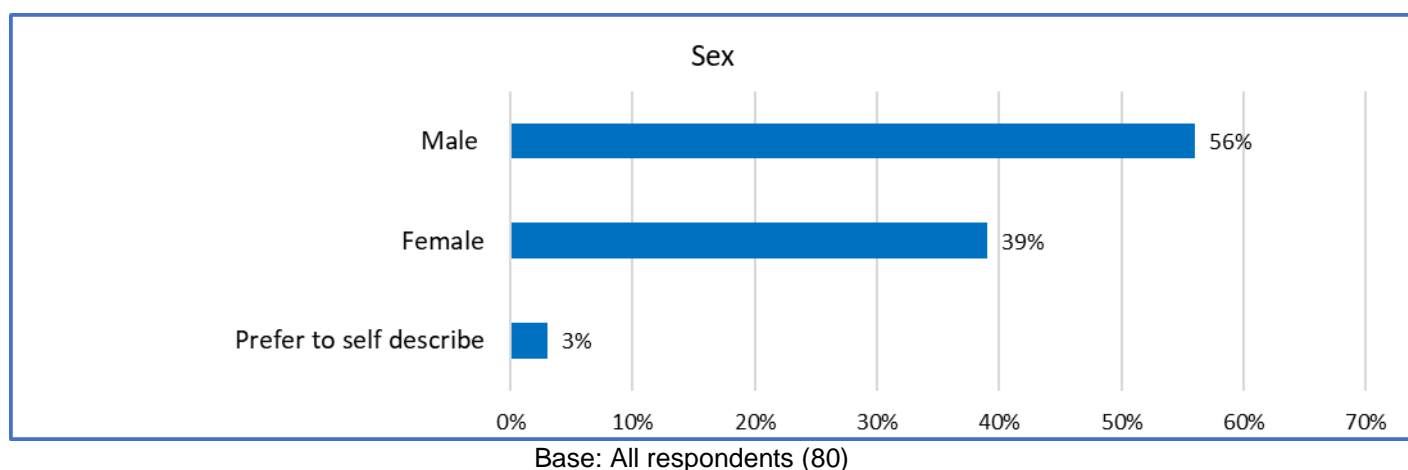
## Consultation findings: Demographics

Local authority area*	Number of responses
Kensington and Chelsea	24
Wandsworth	7
Westminster	6
Camden	4
Hackney	4
Haringey	3
Lewisham	3
Brent	2
Bristol, City of	2
Merton	2

\* Table shows local authority areas with two or more responses.

### Sex of respondent

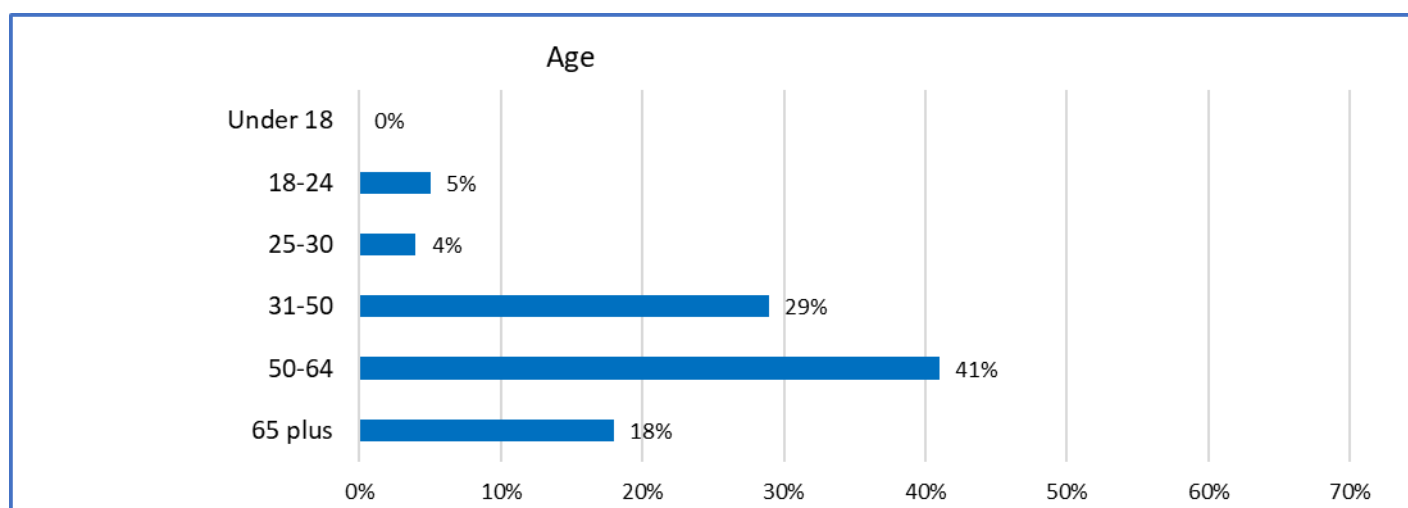
Just over half (56 per cent) of respondents were male, with 39 per cent female.



Base: All respondents (80)

### Age of respondent

Over 40 per cent of respondents were aged between 50 and 64, with over a quarter (29 per cent) aged between 31 and 50. Nearly one in five (18 per cent) were aged 65 or older.



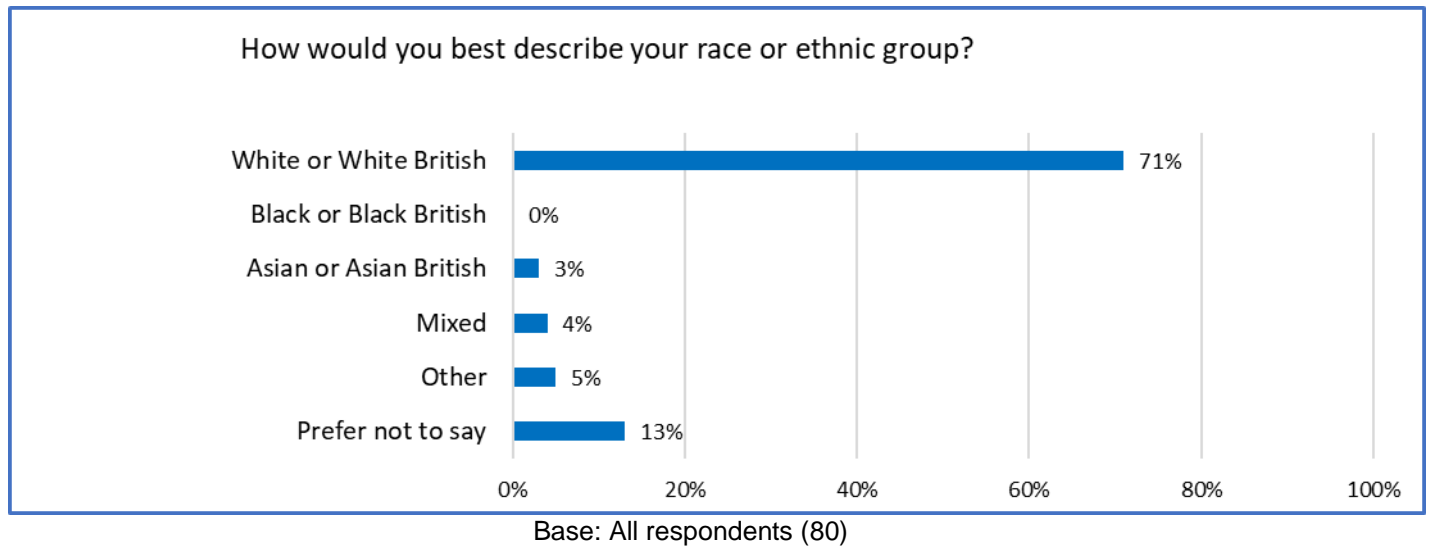
Base: All respondents (80)



## Consultation findings: Demographics

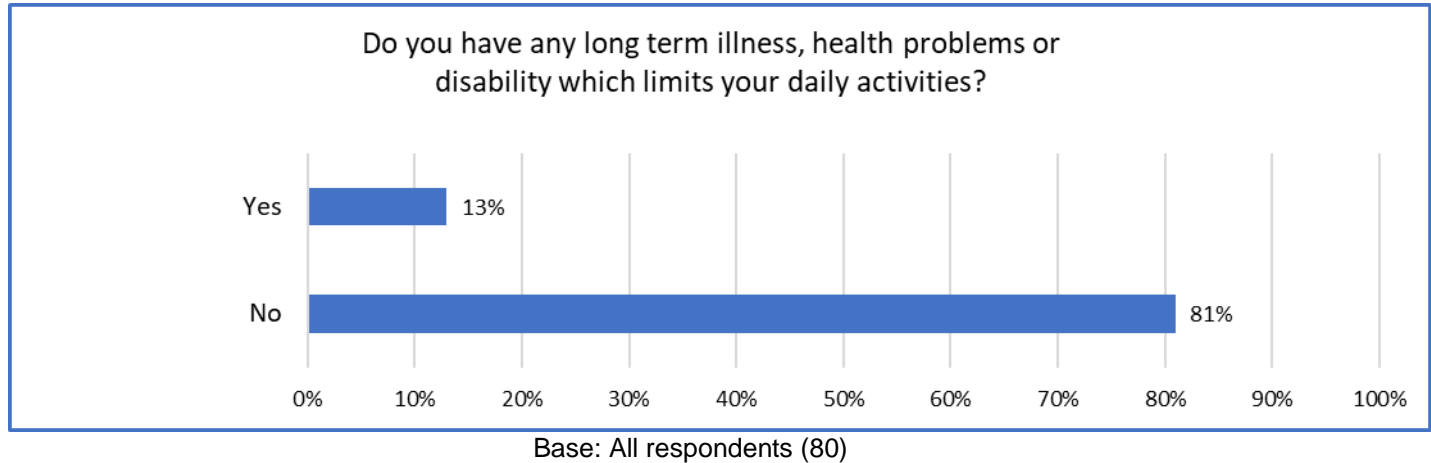
### Ethnicity of respondent

Nearly three-quarters (71 per cent) of respondents came from a White or White British background. A total of 12 per cent came from all other ethnicities.



### Disability or long term illness

The majority (81 per cent) indicated that they did not have a long term illness, health problem or disability that limits their daily activities. A total of 13 per cent indicated that they did.



### Appendix one

#### Data tables

This section of the report contains data tables of the results of the quantitative data.

#### Are you a...

	%	Count
Resident of RBKC	33.8%	27
Business/worker within RBKC	17.5%	14
Visitor to RBKC	40.0%	32
Street entertainer/busker	27.5%	22
Other	16.3%	13
No reply	0.0%	0

#### Are you

	%	Count
Male	56.3%	45
Female	38.8%	31
Prefer to self describe	2.5%	2
No reply	2.5%	2

#### How old are you?

	%	Count
Under 18	0.0%	0
18-24	5.0%	4
25-30	3.8%	3
31-50	28.8%	23
51-64	41.3%	33
65 plus	17.5%	14
No reply	3.8%	3

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

	%	Count
White or White British	71.3%	57
Black or Black British	0.0%	0
Asian or Asian British	2.5%	2
Mixed	3.8%	3
Other	5.0%	4
Prefer not to say	12.5%	10
No reply	5.0%	4

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

	%	Count
Yes	13.8%	11
No	81.0%	65
No reply	5.0%	4

### Appendix two

#### Comments

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

Alongside each comment we have indicated whether the respondent is a resident, visitor, worker or street entertainer/busker. This is to enable the reader to add context to the respondent's response. In some cases respondents have indicated they fall into more than one category.

**If you have any comments regarding the proposed variations to the PSPOs or the impact these might have please state them below.**

#### Theme of comments

Theme	Count	Theme	Count
Against the variations or variations would have detrimental impact on buskers	46	Enforcement	2
Positive impact/comments on busking	23	45 minute performance time limit (against this)	1
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#### Comments

##### 45 minute performance time limit (against this)

- I am unhappy about the 45 minute performance time-limit. I am a professional musician and have performed on the street to supplement pub and club work for more than 25 years. I lost all my bookings when the venues shut in March, so now the Street is my only Gig (Thank goodness the Kids have grown up and flown the coop!). In my experience it is ideal to be able to work a pitch for two hours in order to earn enough to make it worthwhile. Ideally, I then move to another pitch and do a further two hours. This four hour shift per day has proven to be an efficient usage of my time v's earnings balance. Having to 'Up Anchor' every 45 mins will break up the flow of performance and cost time moving plots. I don't really have any other complaints with the proposed policy, having enough material to not repeat is totally reasonable, for example.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

### **Against the variations or variations would have detrimental impact on buskers**

- As a busker, I'm sensitive to my surroundings and people's response to me being in a place. As a disabled artist and street performer I do busking not to make money but to entertain and bring a smile to people's day, to enjoy a song. I believe in a welcoming, inclusive society where rules support this. We are not all bad, noisy troublemakers and this limits potential and opportunity negatively to do that. This just seems a bit draconian and I understand the MU and other music organisations see this as potentially a negative step which needs to be properly listened too, not just a tick box of consultation.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

- Busking has helped finance my song writing and recording, a very valued and appreciated revenue in an otherwise utterly adversely changed music world where on Spotify, for example, an unsigned artist makes only £3 for 3,000 downloads, the lead record companies and mainstream artists having reached private agreements for their sales. Bands like U2 have unhelpfully given their music away for free on iTunes (in fact they received big payments from Apple upfront to promote iTunes). In this increasingly financially imbalanced world for musicians, not just affecting music but also the wider arts, and the listener, ordinary busking footfall becomes even more precious to the artist, to fund modest life and recordings. Restricting busking in areas with greater daily footfall, including where passers-by may have time to stop, listen, and support (like near Harrods) has a dramatic impact on possible busking revenue, and on creative output. To play for two hours takes at least six hours of a busker's day, getting up, travelling, playing, going home, decompressing for an hour before beginning their writing and rehearsing/collaboration day. If the revenue goes down from for example a reasonable daily take of £60 to just £20 or 30, someone doing this for a living cannot survive. Modest music projects will be cancelled, fellow musicians working with them will lose associated recording fees, and recording studios likewise suffer. A busker often is not just supporting themselves, but also this wider grass roots commercial network. This culture of making diverse and innovative music is key to London's reputation around the globe. The restricting proposals will be 'another nail', even if seeming moderate on the surface, or addressed in context (expanding other sites, but where footfall is not so frequent or supportive) and will critically impact buskers relying on this income. Also important, from a public experience perspective, with lockdown many have longed for ease of mixing and enjoying communal experience, which includes hearing a busker on the street. For many tourists this is a key London experience. Lastly, on the survival of the high street, is making it quieter and less visibly supporting local music going to help the sense of vibrancy and engagement?

*Comment made by resident, business or business worker, visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Busking is not antisocial and performers are utterly gripped by a devastated industry - it is draconian and nonsensical to reduce live music in open spaces when during the pandemic and afterwards it may well be the only safe space it can take place.  
*Comment made by resident visitor to the borough*
- Busking should not be criminalised, it brings vibrancy and culture.  
*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*
- Criminalising busking and street performance is a horrific idea. Some people especially right no other way to make a living. To possibly fine those people and to label them as anti-social is wrong and degrading. Also, busking is one of the only ways for emerging or young musicians to perfect their craft and have an opportunity to perform in an era of live music venue death and increasing restrictions on artists.  
*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*
- Draconian regulations are never the preferred method to control busking. PSPOs and their one fix for all situations generally cause more problems than they solve. There are already effective laws to control antisocial buskers without resorting to a blanket ban.  
*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*
- I'm totally opposed to these curtailments to freedom of expression. Street performances add to the cultural heritage of any place. There are already enough legislations to deal with any form of anti-social behaviour. Leave musicians and performers alone.  
*Comment made by visitor to the borough*
- Increasing a legislative and restrictive approach to adverse performance impacts threatens to irreparably damage the vibrancy of arts in the city and the borough. Quality performance, of the which the UK has historically had a proud abundance, it's culturally and socially indispensable. Busking is not illegal and the Council themselves state that they recognise 'the contribution that busking and street entertainment can make to the character of the Borough and the vibrancy that busking and street entertainment can bring to a locality'. However taking PSPOs as a solution only criminalises the practise, and renders the whole artistic contribution excluded, due to concerns about anti-social issues, which themselves are not endemic to street art. Taking a statistical approach to assessing the impact of PSPOs is fundamentally flawed, in that it does not consider the impact on positive artistic activity, and shows a reduction in complaints, which would occur regardless of the impact on constructive street art, as it indiscriminately restricts performance.  
*Comment made by respondent indicating 'other'*
- Leave buskers alone. What harm do they do apart from occasionally murdering a song?  
*Comment made by resident of the borough*
- London used to be famous around the world for its street performers and artists. Licensing and PSPO will only further stifle creativity and freedom of expression. They are not needed as there are already enough legislations in place to address public nuisance and disturbances. Street performers make life better for everyone. We should reward them not punish them.  
*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Most people enjoy hearing live music on the streets, especially in these times when it can't be heard elsewhere. Also, musicians are facing a desperate struggle for survival with other sources of income cut off. Please show humanity here, and not yield to the small minority of complainers with loud voices.  
*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*
- Particularly right now, busking is probably the only way in which some musicians can make a living. To stop them doing so is almost criminal. I live in the Portobello Road, which has quite a lot of it. It cheers up pedestrians and should be encouraged! It is no bother to anyone! How can I complain about the miserable people who complain about busking!!!? It will be FAR worse to have road drills here again and people working on gas mains!  
*Comment made by resident of the borough*
- PSPOs were NOT introduced to be used to regulate busking, this was clear both in the legislation that set them up and in comments made by ministers and Lord when the legislation was passed. Therefore, to regulate Busking, which is, in law, an 'unregulated, unlicensable' activity is illegal and for the Borough to continue down this route is risking costing the taxpayer legal expenses should anyone challenge it.  
*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*
- The first PSPO was completely detrimental to the lives of busker in the area - these new restrictions will completely kill it off. It would be disastrous - particularly during the biggest crisis for the arts in living memory.  
*Comment made by business or worker and street entertainer/busker*
- The proposals outlined here are extreme and certainly do not reflect the feedback and information obtained from the survey. Buskers are most welcomed and enjoyed by the majority of people and there needs to be a balance sought to ensure this continues. I am a singer songwriter busker who will be greatly impacted by the severity of the proposed changes.  
*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*
- The proposed variations will impact on the ability of street performers to be able to earn a living through busking in London at a particularly challenging time for self-employed performers.  
*Comment made by respondent indicating 'other'*
- With the current situation and the ongoing effects of the pandemic, it is very mean spirited to take away the last means of some musicians to make a living whilst still following government guidelines. Let musicians play.  
*Comment made by visitor to the borough*
- You are taking the music away? More restrictions on people's lives. Only to have mindless pop music, drill, grime pumping out of a senseless chain shop selling, overpriced rubbish. Encouraging people to consume and litter. You're not making the environment any better by filling it with consuming morons, herding to the shops to buy more useless crap.  
*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

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*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

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*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

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*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

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*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I enjoy listening to buskers in the tunnel between South Kensington Station and the Museums. Please do not restrict busking.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- Busking is legal in the UK and most of the musicians and not only are incredible high talented artist, this gives life to the streets and is a need for this City. I think offices should have soundproof system in central London that's the best solution, keep music



free and freedom to the people, stop prohibiting everything stop throwing this sad city to the bin.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough and visitor*

- I feel that busking adds to the atmosphere of the borough and should be encouraged. Sure, if people are doing it in antisocial hours, that's an issue for the police but I feel that musicians are struggling enough and that they should be free to perform in the open air.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Based on the evidence quoted in your report, you have not given the existing purple zones a chance to work before turning more of them into red zones. Several of the complaints cited as 'evidence' to justify tougher measures were about purple zone rules not being enforced (e.g. duration of individuals' performance; individuals being required to play varied repertoire; not sticking to the allowed times). So what you are saying, in effect, is that you can't be bothered to enforce the purple zone rules therefore you want to ban busking altogether in more areas. This seems disproportionate, particularly in a borough that houses one of the world's leading music conservatoires. In addition, it is unfortunate that you moved straight to having red zones (for reasons other than public safety, which would have been understandable) rather than trialling properly enforced purple zones throughout. It is easier to enforce - and easier for buskers to navigate - a single set of rules rather than multiple layers of rules. You cite the increase in complaints around Sloane Square station as a justification for creating a red zone. You cite it as a 400% increase (arithmetically, when you're talking about the increase, it's actually a 300% increase on top of the existing complaint in 2016-17). This is hyperbole given that you are talking about FOUR complaints in the past year compared with a SINGLE complaint three years ago - i.e. an increase of THREE more complaints. And you do not indicate whether these are separate complaints or complaints from the same individual or whether they are serious or credible complaints. It is non-credible in the extreme to suggest that four complaints are a reason to impose a red zone (rather than begin with a purple zone) in this area. Busking is an important way for musicians and other performing artists to make a living - indeed it is currently one of the ONLY ways they can do so, given the restrictions on indoor performances. While we hope the latter will be short-lived, it is nevertheless discouraging to see this source of income being cut off. Busking also brings joy to passers by and no doubt some residents too. People won't write to tell you that, because that's not the nature of society. They write to complain when there is something to complain about and they just sit and enjoy it when they are enjoying it. So, while I understand you need to take your complaints seriously, you also need to see them in perspective - they are not the full picture. Of course there are poor and inconsiderate buskers. Your purple zone rules, which are already fairly strict, address a lot of potentially problematic behaviour (repetitive repertoire, overly loud with amplification, poor quality playing, long duration or inconsiderate time of day for playing. As I have said above, the complaints you have received suggest that the purple zone rules are not being enforced, rather than that they are the wrong rules. You should be implanting your existing rules rather than introducing new ones.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- 1 Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made. 2 Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. 3 RBKC should engage all stakeholders and

organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by business or worker and visitor to the borough*

- I disagree fundamentally with the centralised control of creative activities - by definition creativity is a spontaneous expression which can then be honed (by practice and instrumental lessons) into performance. This is how many musicians learn their craft. It is also a potential source of income for skilled professionals in both music and dance, as well as visual art. London's buzz and vibrancy depends on the arts, and one of the UK's big exports is the creative sector. Art should not impact negatively on local residents or their environment. Busking (and all its variations) are not in themselves anti-social. If the content of the performance or activity is offensive this can be addressed by many other laws and bylaws, which already exist. Personally I began my musical career with busking, it is doubtful I could have earned my living as a musician for 40+ years without that start. Luckily for me I now teach music in a school, if not I would be dependent on benefits right now with no gigs happening in lockdowns- and there are many musicians who are in this situation. Why hit us now, when we are down? It feels draconian: cruel and unfeeling with no perceived advantage.... wielding power just because you can, with no empathy or kindness in your hearts. Shame on you.

*Comment made by respondent indicating 'other'*

- I am a well known musician working in film and tv and many recordings. My life as a musician began as a busker in my home town. Today I play in some of the most popular tv shows in the country. Musicians need a chance to perform and begin their platform.

*Comment made by respondent indicating 'other'*

- I'm against any restriction of busking, being a former busker myself and now a composer. I learned my trade as a busker with my band Harvey and the Wallbangers and then went on to have a career in music.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- This is a bleak time in the world and anything that can bring a bit of light to this Orwellian nightmare should be encouraged, not attacked. I am disgusted with the approach Kensington and Chelsea is taking to stamp out musicians attempting to make ends meet by busking on the streets. It's the only place left to them to legitimately work. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- I urge RBKC to talk to and work with Musicians Union to develop a strategy that does not stifle or control the rights of the individual to perform. It seems as though RBKC are heading toward criminalising busking in a borough where the arts dominate the local culture. This is saddening and quite frankly terrifying!

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Given the level of street noise generally in the majority of the areas highlighted I'm a little surprised that busking should be singled out. Many musicians are self-employed and the majority have had their incomes severely affected as a result of the pandemic. Removing a potential source of income from these individuals at this particular time, given they are generally speaking doing little harm, I have to say seems both just a little petty and

lacking in the community spirit that I would suggest is particularly important in the current circumstances.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The PSPO is draconian and criminalises an act that is not in itself criminal or anti-social. The existing PSPOs serve a small % of the borough (your last consultation netted less than 0.5% of RBCK residents) against a small % of buskers. You did not bother to consult with the public who visit the borough. It was a very poor consultation and now you intend to build upon such poor research - shame on you. The public are consistent patrons of busking otherwise it would not continue and provide invaluable enrichment to urban areas. You are also depriving many musicians of their living.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Any restriction will be harmful in many ways not only for the musicians busking to make a living but for music students to have the experience to perform or musicians trying to get exposure. This is part of our art and culture that we have embraced for many decades and well known for it globally.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Removing the majority of amplified busking spots means most musicians will be unable to perform in those areas. The Council claim a lack of resources but are looking to spend £200,000 on introducing this scheme when current legislation can easily be used against buskers causing a genuine nuisance. Busking is legal on public land and the Council already have laws in place to apprehend buskers who are not adhering to the Busk In London code. Extra licensing conditions are unnecessarily restrictive and will be to the detriment of buskers.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I am concerned that creating further legislation about busking will make it harder for people to busk in the area. Making a living through playing music has always been a challenge and being able to play in public spaces is one of the few ways talented musicians can connect directly with potential audiences. I feel it provides a vital space both for cultural activity and a way for musicians to supplement their income whilst trying to establish themselves as performing artists. It seems particularly unfortunate for the Council to be increasing red tape around busking during a year where musicians incomes have been devastated across the sector and playing informally outside provides one of the few spaces where music maybe enjoyed safely. I am concerned that legislative changes like this are justified by the views of a vocal minority rather than thinking about or asking what benefits the community at large. Simply reducing the number of complaints does not justify changing legislation if doing so will result in diminishing the cultural life in the area, take away opportunities for people to work and limit people's ability to hear live music.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Busking is legal and anyone is able to do this. For some it is their livelihood. These changes should not be made. They go against the Human Rights Act. Buskers bring joy and life to every area.

*Comment made by respondent identifying as 'other'*

- To Whom It May Concern, A licensing system might be better and easier to regulate. I don't find the changes that easy to understand, since I am blind and to be fair, can't see the map. [identifying information removed]. I have no amplifier. Allowing people to have a license, with a picture of themselves on it, permission to sell CD's also - let people buy the licenses - then you'd know who was busking - could be a better way forward, something like what Westminster is organising, perhaps. Anyway, I'm no trouble, so should just be left to sing, I'd say!

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I hope that any proposals will not have any diminution of the places for street entertainment in the Royal Borough. I have lived in Covent Garden for 30 years and the street performers are intrinsically linked to the area.

*Comment made by business or worker with the borough*

- PSPOs are unnecessary - in my 25 years here I have got a lot of pleasure from the buskers and never any reason to complain. And it's their living - let them live it.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- I am a professional musician who has, over the years, successfully busked in London as a way to support my income. I object to the wording 'detrimental impact on residents and local business'. Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform. I implore you to rethink and consider these drastic measures. This is just another step to 'cleanse' inner London and before you realise it the soul of this beautiful city will diminish.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

### **Develop a strategy involving all stakeholders**

- Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

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*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

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*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

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*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made so. Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- 1 Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made. 2 Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. 3 RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- I urge RBKC to talk to and work with Musicians Union to develop a strategy that does not stifle or control the rights of the individual to perform. It seems as though RBKC are heading toward criminalising busking in a borough where the arts dominate the local culture. This is saddening and quite frankly terrifying!

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

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*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

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*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

### Enforcement

- Enforcement to regulate and restrict busking takes hours to respond. Typically, the busker has departed by the time buskers arrive. Signs indicating busking boundaries that restrict busking should be erected to allow residents to point them out to buskers that amplification, for example, is not allowed.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Based on the evidence quoted in your report, you have not given the existing purple zones a chance to work before turning more of them into red zones. Several of the complaints cited as 'evidence' to justify tougher measures were about purple zone rules not being enforced (e.g. duration of individuals' performance; individuals being required to play varied repertoire; not sticking to the allowed times). So what you are saying, in effect, is that you can't be bothered to enforce the purple zone rules therefore you want to ban busking altogether in more areas. This seems disproportionate, particularly in a borough that houses one of the world's leading music conservatoires. In addition, it is unfortunate that you moved straight to having red zones (for reasons other than public safety, which would have been understandable) rather than trialling properly enforced purple zones throughout. It is easier to enforce - and easier for buskers to navigate - a single set of rules rather than multiple layers of rules. You cite the increase in complaints around Sloane Square station as a justification for creating a red zone. You cite it as a 400% increase (arithmetically, when you're talking about the increase, it's actually a 300% increase on top of the existing complaint in 2016-17). This is hyperbole given that you are talking about FOUR complaints in the past year compared with a SINGLE complaint three years ago - i.e. an increase of THREE more complaints. And you do not indicate whether these are separate complaints or complaints from the same individual or whether they are serious or credible complaints. It is non-credible in the extreme to suggest that four complaints are a reason to impose a red zone (rather than begin with a purple zone) in this area. Busking is an important way for musicians and other performing artists to make a living - indeed it is currently one of the ONLY ways they can do so, given the restrictions on indoor performances. While we hope the latter will be short-lived, it is nevertheless discouraging to see this source of income being cut off. Busking also brings joy to passers by and no doubt some residents too. People won't write to tell you that, because that's not the nature of society. They write to complain when there is something to complain about and they just sit and enjoy it when they are enjoying it. So, while I understand you need to take your complaints seriously, you also need to see them in perspective - they are not the full picture. Of course there are poor and inconsiderate buskers. Your purple zone rules, which are already fairly strict, address a lot of potentially problematic behaviour (repetitive repertoire, overly loud with amplification, poor quality playing, long duration or inconsiderate time of day for playing).

As I have said above, the complaints you have received suggest that the purple zone rules are not being enforced, rather than that they are the wrong rules. You should be implanting your existing rules rather than introducing new ones.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

### **In favour of variations (either in their entirety or at specific locations)**

- As a member of staff of the Dyson School at Imperial College, I am very glad to see the proposal to extend the red zone to include the north end of Exhibition Road. Busking is enormously disruptive to the hundreds of staff and students in the Dyson Building, especially in summer months and school holidays. These changes will be very welcome to us.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- I am very supportive of the changes proposed around Exhibition Road namely making into a red zone the stretch of Exhibition Road from the Science Museum up to Imperial College Road which was previously included within the purple zone. There has been repeated disturbance for residents from buskers in this area - multiple blocks of flats are on this stretch of road and a Mews gives off it into which sound is funnelled.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- I strongly support the changes proposed around Exhibition Road i.e. making into a red zone the stretch of Exhibition Road from the Science Museum up to Imperial College Road which is currently included within the purple zone. There has been repeated disturbance for residents from buskers in this area - multiple blocks of flats are on this stretch of road and a Mews gives off it into which sound is funnelled causing residents to be disturbed. Please make this change.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- It is inconsistent and frustrating to have the zone on Exhibition Road stop so far south - it has merely pushed the buskers further north and outside the Science Museum and Imperial College.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- My family and I fully support making into a red zone the stretch of Exhibition Road from the Science Museum up to Imperial College Road, which is currently part of the purple zone. Residents have been disturbed by buskers multiple times - those residents who live in a number of blocks of flats on this stretch of road, as well as in Princes Gate mews houses. Please implement this proposal. Thank you.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- A suggestion about the GLOUCESTER ROAD Proposal: 1. I support this. 2. The proposed area is not fit for purpose because it is too small! Buskers would either set up on the east side of Gloucester Road, at any point from the Cromwell Road junction, down to Harrington Road, or/and around the corners - the north side of Courtfield Road between the rear, vehicle, entrance to the shopping mall, or/and the Cromwell Road area adjacent to the pedestrian mall/arcade entrance. Please, Please Extend the proposed GR PSPO to include these locations.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Gloucester Road area: I strongly support the proposal but ask that serious consideration be given to minor extensions to include the following - because the current proposal is highly likely to (will inevitably) encourage buskers to seek adjacent pitches: A. on Cromwell Road (south side), between the junction with Gloucester Road and beyond the popular pedestrian entrance to the shopping mall. NB: the footway at the latter is much used by homeless seeking warmth from the recessed, restricted access, underground doorway, and by beggars at the mall entrance - each obvious options for a busker), B. each side of Gloucester Road between the junctions with Cromwell Road and with Harrington Gardens/Stanhope Gardens. Not including this stretch risks pushing buskers across and/or down the road. C. the North side of Courtfield Road, between the Plaza's end and the vehicle entrance to the shopping mall. This stretch of Courtfield Road would inevitably be exploited by buskers, if not included.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- On the Gloucester Road proposal, which I fully support, there is a strong risk that buskers will position themselves around the corners - Courtfield Road and Cromwell Road, by the mall entrance, and/or elsewhere along either side of Gloucester Road. Would it not be sensible modestly to extend the proposed area?

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Excellent.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- In support of them. The detrimental effect on locals overweighs the claim that they attract visitors/benefit the experience of guests to the borough.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- Thank you, we welcome this implementation.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- The entire Pavement of the "Whole Food". (Running from Whole food to High Street Kensington station). The grounds being - Noise nuisance. Repeatedly playing the same 'miserable tune' over again, also bad image for the High Street.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The PSPOs are very much welcome by residents in Old Court House, a mansion block which faces the High Street and is opposite Whole Foods. So called 'buskers' who are really beggars playing the accordion shipped in from Eastern Europe by gangland bosses, make our lives a misery playing the same 'tune' over again usually with a loudspeaker. It is impossible to have windows open in summer. The PSPO areas should be extended to include both sides of the High Street between Wrights Lane to where we live adjacent to Young Street

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Further extensions needed/suggested**

- A suggestion about the GLOUCESTER ROAD Proposal: 1. I support this. 2. The proposed area is not fit for purpose because it is too small! Buskers would either set up on the east side of Gloucester Road, at any point from the Cromwell Road junction, down to Harrington Road, or/and around the corners - the north side of Courtfield Road between the rear, vehicle, entrance to the shopping mall, or/and the Cromwell Road area



adjacent to the pedestrian mall/arcade entrance. Please, Please Extend the proposed GR PSPO to include these locations.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Buskers should be banned 100%.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Busking on the streets should not be allowed. The people block the pavement, harass the locals. Since Covid 19 came around, none have worn masks. They take down the tone of the area.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Busking using amplification should be banned nationwide the distress it causes to local residents and businesses is unacceptable and should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

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*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Gloucester Road Station Area - 1. The area proposed for Zone 2 PSPO (directly outside the tube station) should be Zone 1 PSPO. 2. The entire eastern side of Gloucester Road between Cromwell Road and Stanhope Gardens should be Zone 2 PSPO. 3. The western side of Gloucester Road from Courtfield Road to Harrington Gardens should be Zone 2 PSPO.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- On the Gloucester Road proposal, which I fully support, there is a strong risk that buskers will position themselves around the corners - Courtfield Road and Cromwell Road, by the mall entrance, and/or elsewhere along either side of Gloucester Road. Would it not be sensible modestly to extend the proposed area?

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be extended to include both sides of the High Street between Wrights Lane to where we live adjacent to Young Street.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Improvements since previous PSPO came in**

- I have noticed the huge difference in the stress levels on the High Street even with all the construction and the bike lane controversy. I attribute the difference to the lack of amplified buskers. The few buskers we have are quiet, respectful, often playing peaceful, light classical music which creates a calmer environment rather than the loud, pounding of some of the music we had previously. I find myself actually smiling at them - and they smile back - which is also nice on a busy street. Even the two guys singing carols and collecting for a charity seemed to be enjoying themselves and this was contagious to many of the passers-by. Noise raises blood pressure and is a distraction to drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. A pleasant busker playing an electric lute is not the insistent sort of noise we often had before - with competing buskers playing amplified instruments - buskers you could hear several streets away so there was no peace at all and no space to think. The flowers, plantings, benches...the new look of the High Street and a quiet, peaceful musician, are a tribute to the efforts made by the Council and are much appreciated in these difficult times.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Lack of evidence or questioning evidence**

- Based on the evidence quoted in your report, you have not given the existing purple zones a chance to work before turning more of them into red zones. Several of the complaints cited as 'evidence' to justify tougher measures were about purple zone rules not being enforced (e.g. duration of individuals' performance; individuals being required to play varied repertoire; not sticking to the allowed times). So what you are saying, in effect, is that you can't be bothered to enforce the purple zone rules therefore you want to ban busking altogether in more areas. This seems disproportionate, particularly in a borough that houses one of the world's leading music conservatoires. In addition, it is unfortunate that you moved straight to having red zones (for reasons other than public safety, which would have been understandable) rather than trialling properly enforced purple zones throughout. It is easier to enforce - and easier for buskers to navigate - a single set of rules rather than multiple layers of rules. You cite the increase in complaints around Sloane Square station as a justification for creating a red zone. You cite it as a 400% increase (arithmetically, when you're talking about the increase, it's actually a 300% increase on top of the existing complaint in 2016-17). This is hyperbole given that you are talking about FOUR complaints in the past year compared with a SINGLE complaint three years ago - i.e. an increase of THREE more complaints. And you do not indicate whether these are separate complaints or complaints from the same individual or whether they are serious or credible complaints. It is non-credible in the extreme to suggest that four complaints are a reason to impose a red zone (rather than begin with a purple zone) in this area. Busking is an important way for musicians and other performing artists to make a living - indeed it is currently one of the ONLY ways they can do so, given the restrictions on indoor performances. While we hope the latter will be short-lived, it is nevertheless discouraging to see this source of income being cut off. Busking also brings joy to passers by and no doubt some residents too. People won't write to tell you that, because that's not the nature of society. They write to complain when there is something to complain about and they just sit and enjoy it when they are enjoying it. So, while I understand you need to take your complaints seriously, you also need to see

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*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

### **Licensing system**

- To Whom It May Concern, A licensing system might be better and easier to regulate. I don't find the changes that easy to understand, since I am blind and to be fair, can't see the map. [identifying information removed]. I have no amplifier. Allowing people to have a license, with a picture of themselves on it, permission to sell CD's also - let people buy the licenses - then you'd know who was busking - could be a better way forward, something like what Westminster is organising, perhaps. Anyway, I'm no trouble, so should just be left to sing, I'd say!

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

### **Negative impact of busking (e.g. noise)**

- As a member of staff of the Dyson School at Imperial College, I am very glad to see the proposal to extend the red zone to include the north end of Exhibition Road. Busking is enormously disruptive to the hundreds of staff and students in the Dyson Building, especially in summer months and school holidays. These changes will be very welcome to us.

*Comment made business or worker within the borough*

- Busking on the streets should not be allowed. The people block the pavement, harass the locals. Since Covid 19 came around, none have worn masks. They take down the tone of the area.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Busking using amplification should be banned nationwide the distress it causes to local residents and businesses is unacceptable and should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

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*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- In support of them. The detrimental effect on locals overweighs the claim that they attract visitors/benefit the experience of guests to the borough.

*Comment made business or worker within the borough*

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*Comment made by resident of the borough*

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*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Performances comprising only of drumming tend to be very monotonous and repetitive.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The entire Pavement of the "Whole Food". (Running from Whole food to High Street Kensington station). The grounds being - Noise nuisance. Repeatedly playing the same 'miserable tune' over again, also bad image for the High Street.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The noise is unbearable.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The PSPOs are very much welcome by residents in Old Court House, a mansion block which faces the High Street and is opposite Whole Foods. So called 'buskers' who are really beggars playing the accordion shipped in from Eastern Europe by gangland bosses, make our lives a misery playing the same 'tune' over again usually with a loudspeaker. It is impossible to have windows open in summer. The PSPO areas should be extended to include both sides of the High Street between Wrights Lane to where we live adjacent to Young Street.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

### **Positive impact/comments on busking**

- As a busker, I'm sensitive to my surroundings and people's response to me being in a place. As a disabled artist and street performer I do busking not to make money but to entertain and bring a smile to people's day, to enjoy a song. I believe in a welcoming, inclusive society where rules support this. We are not all bad, noisy troublemakers and this limits potential and opportunity negatively to do that. This just seems a bit draconian and I understand the MU and other music organisations see this as potentially a negative step which needs to be properly listened too, not just a tick box of consultation.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

- Busking has helped finance my song writing and recording, a very valued and appreciated revenue in an otherwise utterly adversely changed music world where on Spotify, for example, an unsigned artist makes only £3 for 3,000 downloads, the lead record companies and mainstream artists having reached private agreements for their sales. Bands like U2 have unhelpfully given their music away for free on iTunes (in fact

they received big payments from Apple upfront to promote iTunes). In this increasingly financially imbalanced world for musicians, not just affecting music but also the wider arts, and the listener, ordinary busking footfall becomes even more precious to the artist, to fund modest life and recordings. Restricting busking in areas with greater daily footfall, including where passers-by may have time to stop, listen, and support (like near Harrods) has a dramatic impact on possible busking revenue, and on creative output. To play for two hours takes at least six hours of a busker's day, getting up, travelling, playing, going home, decompressing for an hour before beginning their writing and rehearsing/collaboration day. If the revenue goes down from for example a reasonable daily take of £60 to just £20 or 30, someone doing this for a living cannot survive. Modest music projects will be cancelled, fellow musicians working with them will lose associated recording fees, and recording studios likewise suffer. A busker often is not just supporting themselves, but also this wider grass roots commercial network. This culture of making diverse and innovative music is key to London's reputation around the globe. The restricting proposals will be 'another nail', even if seeming moderate on the surface, or addressed in context (expanding other sites, but where footfall is not so frequent or supportive) and will critically impact buskers relying on this income. Also important, from a public experience perspective, with lockdown many have longed for ease of mixing and enjoying communal experience, which includes hearing a busker on the street. For many tourists this is a key London experience. Lastly, on the survival of the high street, is making it quieter and less visibly supporting local music going to help the sense of vibrancy and engagement?

*Comment made by resident, business or worker, visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Criminalising busking and street performance is a horrific idea. Some people especially right no other way to make a living. To possibly fine those people and to label them as anti-social is wrong and degrading. Also, busking is one of the only ways for emerging or young musicians to perfect their craft and have an opportunity to perform in an era of live music venue death and increasing restrictions on artists.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I am in favour busking, it helps increase the footfall, in the borough, those most against tend to be part time residents of the Borough, life who have little understanding of city.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- I fully support street entertainers and buskers. They are an integral part of our societies and providing they do not cause a nuisance to have every right to make our streets more vibrant. I often visit London on business and enjoy listening to them. They are essential and should be supported to carry on their right to perform.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- I'm totally opposed to these curtailments to freedom of expression. Street performances add to the cultural heritage of any place. There are already enough legislations to deal with any form of anti-social behaviour. Leave musicians and performers alone.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- London used to be famous around the world for its street performers and artists. Licensing and PSPO will only further stifle creativity and freedom of expression. They are not needed as there are already enough legislations in place to address public nuisance

and disturbances. Street performers make life better for everyone. We should reward them not punish them.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Most people enjoy hearing live music on the streets, especially in these times when it can't be heard elsewhere. Also, musicians are facing a desperate struggle for survival with other sources of income cut off. Please show humanity here, and not yield to the small minority of complainers with loud voices.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- Particularly right now, busking is probably the only way in which some musicians can make a living. To stop them doing so is almost criminal. I live in the Portobello Road, which has quite a lot of it. It cheers up pedestrians and should be encouraged! It is no bother to anyone! How can I complain ABOUT the miserable people who complain about busking!!!? It will be FAR worse to have road drills here again and people working on gas mains!

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- The borough of Kensington and Chelsea is a key area of London for both residents and tourists. Both are improved by the colour and vibrancy that busking can bring. On balance a bit more pro activity would make for a more healthy music scene akin to the successful busking on the London Underground and the famous Covent Garden busking scene. Particularly in tourist hotspots such as around the square near the Saatchi gallery, outside Sloane Square tube and around the museums busking should be encouraged and pitches could be encouraged to make the busking safe and thrive.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- The proposals outlined here are extreme and certainly do not reflect the feedback and information obtained from the survey. Buskers are most welcomed and enjoyed by the majority of people and there needs to be a balance sought to ensure this continues. I am a singer songwriter busker who will be greatly impacted by the severity of the proposed changes.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

- I enjoy listening to buskers in the tunnel between South Kensington Station and the Museums. Please do not restrict busking.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- I feel that street music adds to the vibrancy and enjoyment of us shoppers. We will miss them if you curtail it. We would like to see a cultural area in Kensington, it's so depressing that music which uplifts our spirits is degraded to nuisance. We should be grateful that musicians are giving their music with no fees charged. Radio music coming loudly out of shops is never stopped or complained about. Also musicians have no live work in the moment and this means busking is the only way to make any income.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Buskers are an exciting and important part of the landscape of any city. They provide much needed entertainment at this troubling time.

*Comment made by business or worker within the borough*

- Busking is legal in the UK and most of the musicians and not only are incredible high talented artist, this gives life to the streets and is a need for this City. I think offices should have soundproof system in central London that's the best solution, keep music free and freedom to the people, stop prohibiting everything stop throwing this sad city to the bin.

*Comment made by business or worker and street entertainer/busker*

- I feel that busking adds to the atmosphere of the borough and should be encouraged. Sure, if people are doing it in antisocial hours, that's an issue for the police but I feel that musicians are struggling enough and that they should be free to perform in the open air.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- 1 Busking is not a nuisance, or illegal, nor is it anti-social and should not be made. 2 Increasing the number of controlled zones will have a devastating impact on the busking community and the cultural ethos of RBKC. 3 RBKC should engage all stakeholders and organisations to develop a strategy that does not suppress or control the rights of the individual to perform.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- I disagree fundamentally with the centralised control of creative activities - by definition creativity is a spontaneous expression which can then be honed (by practice and instrumental lessons) into performance. This is how many musicians learn their craft. It is also a potential source of income for skilled professionals in both music and dance, as well as visual art. London's buzz and vibrancy depends on the arts, and one of the UKs big exports is the creative sector. Art should not impact negatively on local residents or their environment. Busking (and all its variations) are not in themselves anti-social. If the content of the performance or activity is offensive this can be addressed by many other laws and bylaws, which already exist. Personally I began my musical career with busking, it is doubtful I could have earned my living as a musician for 40+ years without that start. Luckily for me I now teach music in a school, if not I would be dependent on benefits right now with no gigs happening in lockdowns- and there are many musicians who are in this situation. Why hit us now, when we are down? It feels draconian: cruel and unfeeling with no perceived advantage.... wielding power just because you can, with no empathy or kindness in your hearts. Shame on you.

*Comment made by respondent identifying as 'other'*

- Buskers should be allowed and lawful. They enhance public amenity, are part of UK culture and way of life and are pleasing to hear. Inspiring many a youngster and aiding the mental health of the borough.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Busking is legal and anyone is able to do this. For some it is their livelihood. These changes should not be made. They go against the Human Rights Act. Buskers bring joy and life to every area.

*Comment made by respondent identifying as 'other'*

- PSPOs are unnecessary - in my 25 years here I have got a lot of pleasure from the buskers and never any reason to complain. And it's their living - let them live it.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- I am concerned that creating further legislation about busking will make it harder for people to busk in the area. Making a living through playing music has always been a challenge and being able to play in public spaces is one of the few ways talented musicians can connect directly with potential audiences. I feel it provides a vital space both for cultural activity and a way for musicians to supplement their income whilst trying to establish themselves as performing artists. It seems particularly unfortunate for the Council to be increasing red tape around busking during a year where musicians incomes have been devastated across the sector and playing informally outside provides one of the few spaces where music maybe enjoyed safely. I am concerned that legislative changes like this are justified by the views of a vocal minority rather than thinking about or asking what benefits the community at large. Simply reducing the number of complaints does not justify changing legislation if doing so will result in diminishing the cultural life in the area, take away opportunities for people to work and limit people's ability to hear live music.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- Busking is not a nuisance [or] illegal, brings good vibes and culture, it's been an important attraction of London and should not be made so.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

### **Providing busking pitches**

- The borough of Kensington and Chelsea is a key area of London for both residents and tourists. Both are improved by the colour and vibrancy that busking can bring. On balance a bit more pro activity would make for a more healthy music scene akin to the successful busking on the London Underground and the famous Covent Garden busking scene. Particularly in tourist hotspots such as around the square near the Saatchi gallery, outside Sloane Square tube and around the museums busking should be encouraged and pitches could be encouraged to make the busking safe and thrive.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

### **Use other powers to regulate/control**

- Draconian regulations are never the preferred method to control busking. PSPOs and their one fix for all situations generally cause more problems than they solve. There are already effective laws to control antisocial buskers without resorting to a blanket ban.

*Comment made by street entertainer/busker*

- I'm totally opposed to these curtailments to freedom of expression. Street performances add to the cultural heritage of any place. There are already enough legislations to deal with any form of anti-social behaviour. Leave musicians and performers alone.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*

- London used to be famous around the world for its street performers and artists. Licensing and PSPO will only further stifle creativity and freedom of expression. They are not needed as there are already enough legislations in place to address public nuisance and disturbances. Street performers make life better for everyone. We should reward them not punish them.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*



- PSPOs were NOT introduced to be used to regulate busking, this was clear both in the legislation that set them up and in comments made by ministers and Lord when the legislation was passed. Therefore, to regulate Busking, which is, in law, an 'unregulated, unlicensable' activity is illegal and for the Borough to continue down this route is risking costing the taxpayer legal expenses should anyone challenge it.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I feel that busking adds to the atmosphere of the borough and should be encouraged. Sure, if people are doing it in antisocial hours, that's an issue for the police but I feel that musicians are struggling enough and that they should be free to perform in the open air.

*Comment made by resident of the borough*

- Removing the majority of amplified busking spots means most musicians will be unable to perform in those areas. The Council claim a lack of resources but are looking to spend £200,000 on introducing this scheme when current legislation can easily be used against buskers causing a genuine nuisance. Busking is legal on public land and the Council already have laws in place to apprehend buskers who are not adhering to the Busk In London code. Extra licensing conditions are unnecessarily restrictive and will be to the detriment of buskers.

*Comment made by visitor and street entertainer/busker*

- I am concerned that creating further legislation about busking will make it harder for people to busk in the area. Making a living through playing music has always been a challenge and being able to play in public spaces is one of the few ways talented musicians can connect directly with potential audiences. I feel it provides a vital space both for cultural activity and a way for musicians to supplement their income whilst trying to establish themselves as performing artists. It seems particularly unfortunate for the Council to be increasing red tape around busking during a year where musicians incomes have been devastated across the sector and playing informally outside provides one of the few spaces where music maybe enjoyed safely. I am concerned that legislative changes like this are justified by the views of a vocal minority rather than thinking about or asking what benefits the community at large. Simply reducing the number of complaints does not justify changing legislation if doing so will result in diminishing the cultural life in the area, take away opportunities for people to work and limit people's ability to hear live music.

*Comment made by visitor to the borough*