

Date: 22nd April 2016
Your reference:
Our reference: 20530540
Enquiries to: foi@camden.gov.uk

**Culture & Environment
Directorate**
London Borough of
Camden
5 Pancras Square
London
N1C 4AG

Tel 020 7974 2925
foi@camden.gov.uk

Dear Mr Birchall

Re: Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your Environmental Information Regulations request.

Your request for information, received on 30th March 2016 has now been considered.

You requested the following:-

Please provide ALL of the following items, and any other info that you believe is relevant to how successful you feel the license has been:

How many complaints about buskers did Camden receive in the year leading up to the implementation of the scheme?

The licensing scheme came into operation in spring 2014.

In the year before the scheme was introduced (1 March 2013 to 1 March 2014) 118 complaints were received.

How many complaints about buskers did Camden receive each year, following the implementation of the scheme (2013, 2014, 2015)

I have included figures for 2013/4 as requested, but the scheme did not start until 2014.

- 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014: 135
- 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015: 112
- 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016: 183

How many total noise complaints did Camden receive each year (including bars, clubs and all other noise generators in the borough) in 2013, 2014, 2015

- 2013/4: 3670
- 2014/5: 3594
- 2015/6: 3716



What evidence, if any, do you have to suggest that there has been an overall reduction in the number of buskers performing in Camden?

We have no evidence to show there is a reduction in the number of buskers performing in Camden

What evidence, if any, do you have to support the busking license?

[Please note that this answer is based on the opinion of one officer]

We have a number of licenced buskers that operate in Camden with conditions attached to their licence with regard to the location, duration and timeframe for their performance. When buskers operate outside of these conditions, we are likely to receive noise complaints. With this approach, we have their details and can contact them to address the problem. The conditions attached to the licence limits the time a busker can occupy an area. We have found that this enables buskers to perform in various locations without the issue of a particular busker occupying a particular spot for too long.

Why does Camden believe it has been beneficial?

[Please note that this answer is based on the opinion of one officer]

The positive feedback from residents shows that the licensing scheme has been of benefit. The number of amplified buskers performing at night has reduced. Residents welcome the increase in buskers with a standard licence, often with acoustic guitar, which adds to the atmosphere especially in Camden Town, but which do not cause a disturbance.

We hope that this response is useful to you.

If you are unhappy with any aspect of the way in that your request has been processed then you have the right to request a review of our response. If you wish to request a review, please set out in writing your grounds of appeal (within 2 months of this correspondence) and send it to: **Information & Records Management Team, Camden Town Hall, Judd Street, London, WC1H 9LP** and your complaint will be administered through our Internal Review procedure. You can also email your appeal to foireviews@camden.gov.uk

If you are still not satisfied following the Internal Review, you have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office. They can be contacted at: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF Telephone: 01625 545 700 www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Karlos Hill
Information Records Management Officer
E-mail: foi@camden.gov.uk
Phone: 020 7974 2925