

City Centre Beat Initiative
Report to Steering Group

Year 13 – 4th Quarter Report (**January - March 2018**)

This report provides statistical data and information on the quarterly performance of the City Centre Beat (CCB) initiative and is based on the key performance indicators that form the Service Level Agreement (SLA), namely:

- 1. Business liaison**
- 2. Enforcement issues**
 - a. On-street drinking
 - b. Alcohol interventions by CCB officers
 - c. Fixed-penalty notices (FPN's) issued
- 3. On-street drinking & rough sleepers** (total recorded incidents)
- 4. Begging**
- 5. Traffic issues**
- 6. Vehicles illegally in the city centre segment area**
- 7. Vehicles moved on at bus stops**
- 8. Total number of referrals from Translink**
- 9. Funding & SLA**
- 10. Media & publicity**
- 11. Recommendations & lobbying**

Statistics produced since 2005 are contained within the historical data report. This is available on request.

1.**Business Liaison:**

Issues and actions arising out of meetings attended during the quarter.

a. Retailers

CCB held meetings with various retailers in relation to anti-social behaviour taking place within close proximity to their businesses. These included:

- Fountain Tavern Bar & Subway, Fountain Street
- Michele International, Fountain Lane
- Havana, Chapel Lane
- Tesco & Starbucks, Great Victoria Street
- Sew N Sew, Callender Street
- Ladbrokes, Castle Street
- Various Castle Street businesses via WhatsApp group
- Bank of Ireland - CCB met with management at Bank of Ireland regarding recent incidents involving abusive customers. CCB provided reassurance to staff about how to deal with these incidents and set up an onsite meeting with Police Crime Prevention Officer.
- Tesco - CCB met with management and staff in Tesco, Royal Avenue to provide crime prevention advice regarding thefts and abusive customers. CCB made a referral to Belfast City Centre Management, who were able to offer the Retail Crimewatch package including Radiolink.
- Gresham Street Traders - CCB visited all of the businesses in Gresham Street following complaints about drug use and anti-social behaviour, particularly at the public toilets. CCB attempted to gauge support for setting up a trader's association to allow businesses to collectively discuss their concerns.
- Castle Street Traders Meeting - Belfast One BID organised a meeting involving all of the businesses in Castle Street. As a result, a WhatsApp group was setup involving BID, CCB, BCCM and the Castle Street traders. An intense period of police patrolling in the area was agreed to tackle the anti-social behaviour. Following this CCB assisted Central Neighbourhood Team with high visibility reassurance patrolling for a period of 3-4 weeks in the area of Castle Street and Fountain Street. This involved the use of a static mobile police station at various locations in the area.
- BHS redevelopment - CCB attended an onsite meeting with the foreman and a general meeting with interested parties where they discussed how to minimise disruption to the surrounding area during redevelopment; in particular nearby businesses and shoppers. CCB regularly monitor this.

b. Northern Ireland Housing Executive

CCB continue to hold regular meetings with NIHE in relation to the management of rough sleepers. As a result, several have been given accommodation, which has had a positive effect in Belfast City Centre as their absence is noticeable.

c. Belfast City Council

Police CCTV operators were having difficulties viewing certain areas where anti-social behaviour was taking place due to trees obstructing the camera view. CCB met with BCC to point out the affected areas. BCC agreed to have the trees trimmed to address this.

d. Belfast One BID

CCB are in regular contact with the Belfast ONE BID Ambassadors in the course of their duties in Belfast City Centre.

e. Belfast City Centre Management

The CCB engage with BCCM in order to share information on the most important issues affecting Belfast City Centre. A weekly report of on-going concerns is also updated by BCCM and sent to the CCB for information and monitoring.

2.

Enforcement Issues:

a. On-street drinking:

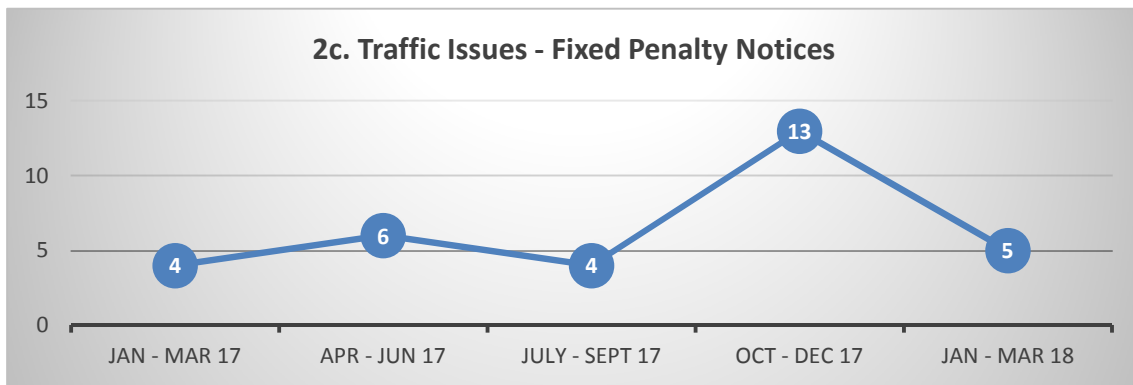
Due to current legislation, the CCB Officers are unable to issue statements to BCC for on-street drinking unless they witness an individual actually consuming alcohol and appropriate signage is in place. The PSNI & BCCM continue to engage with BCC regarding amendments to the current bye-law to include powers of 'seizure' of alcohol.

b. Alcohol interventions by CCB officers:

| Alcohol interventions (January - March '18) | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|
| Surrendered | Type | Quantity |
| Beer | Cans | 9 |
| Cider | Large bottles | 11 |
| Spirits | Bottles | 12 |
| Wine | Bottles | 6 |
| [July - September '17 total: 63] | | Total: 38 |

c. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's) issued):

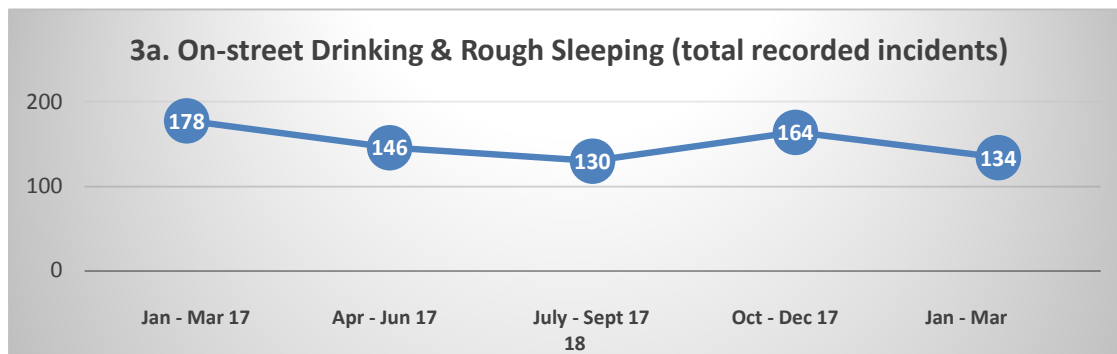
CCB issued **5** fixed penalty tickets during this quarter.



3.

On-street drinking & rough sleepers (total recorded incidents):

a. The total number of people detected by CCB (incl. information provided by the Belfast One BID Ambassadors and BCCM) was **134**. The total number of incidents was **91**.



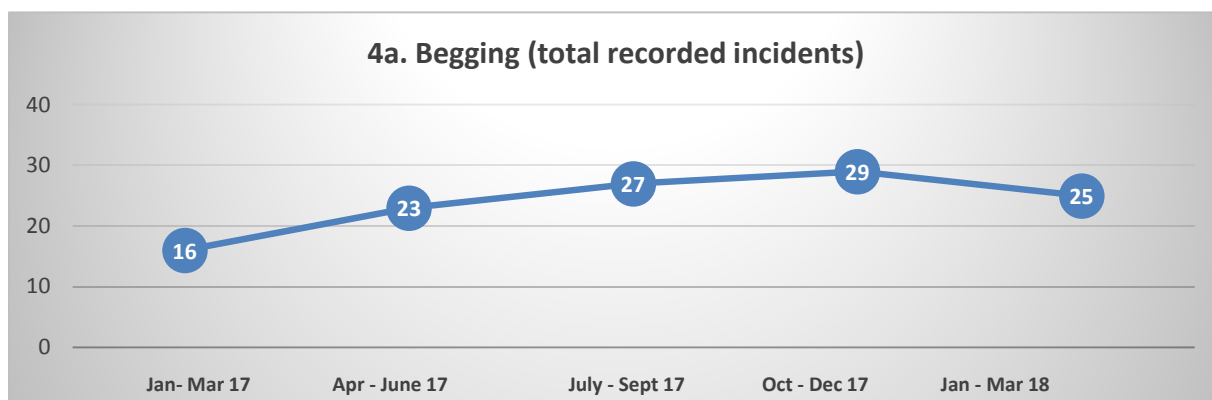
b. The CCB proactively confront these issues using both arrest (if appropriate) and bail conditions. Within the Belfast One BID area, Donegall Place, High Street and Castle Arcade are the primary locations that rough sleepers frequent because of the shelter provided by the recess design of doorways of premises in these areas. Regular contact with local hostels, the Belfast One BID Ambassadors and BCCM contributes to the monitoring and engagement with rough sleepers.

c. During this quarter CCB made **2** arrests linked to on-street drinkers/sleepers. Offences and other arrests that CCB have dealt with during this quarter have included: begging, disorderly behaviour, assaults and arrest warrants

- d. CCB worked alongside Extradition Unit re service of summons and execution of European Bench Warrant. Eg. Foreign National rough sleeper had been sleeping in Lower Garfield Street for approximately 2 months. The male was involved in anti-social behaviour as he was drinking alcohol on the street. CCB arrested this male on a European Arrest warrant. There have been no ASB issues at this location since.
- e. CCB attended an information seminar at Belfast Magistrates Court regarding the introduction of a Drugs Misuse Court.
- f. CCB continue to work alongside the Police Missing Persons Team with information relating to missing persons likely to be in Belfast City Centre; this helps to minimise potential ASB/theft involving the missing person, or harm coming to the individual.
- g. CCB responded to a large number of calls involving persons collapsed due to heroin overdoses, which often occur in public toilets. CCB have met and issued safety advice to businesses in relation to their customer toilets being used by heroin addicts. CCB are working closely with Belfast City Council and outreach services to address the issue.
- h. CCB continue to meet regularly with support groups: the Homeless Support Unit of the Housing Executive, DePaul, Drug Outreach, Welcome Organisation and Extern, to discuss the most vulnerable individuals in the local community; to date the collaboration has resulted in successfully getting a number of individuals into accommodation.
- i. The CCB officers continue to assist BCC in relation to persons involved in street drinking by locating and serving summonses on them.
- j. Rubbish/waste associated with rough sleepers and drinkers is disposed of by the CCB.

4. Begging:

- a. Total number of begging incidents was **25**, detected by CCB and also reported by the Belfast One BID Ambassadors and BCCM.
- b. CCB arrested **2** people (who were charged or reported) and **3** individuals were reported for prosecution. A further **22** people were given official advice & warning (details recorded onto police system and flagged).
- c. The CCB officers continue to use the Big Word Interpreter Service; this allows direct conversation in any language via mobile phone with a suspect. Many of the cases can be dealt with there and then so provides an invaluable service to the CCB team and PSNI.

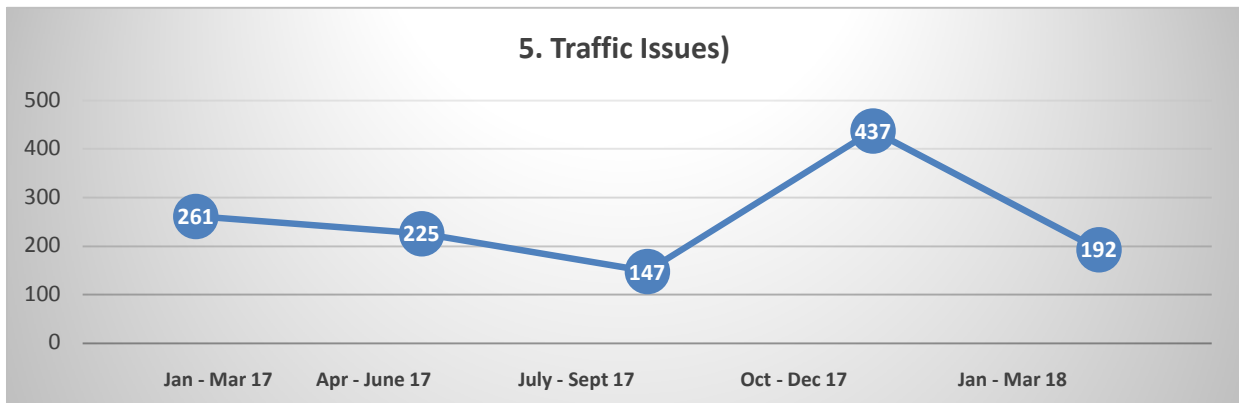


5. Traffic Issues

a. The total number of traffic-related issues managed by CCB this quarter was **192**.

Within this figure:

- **23** drivers were challenged for being illegally in the controlled area of the city centre.
- **30** liaisons took place with Translink Metro staff through phone calls and face-to-face meetings with inspectors in the vicinity of City Hall.
- **87** drivers were spoken to/moved on from bus stops (separate from Metro figures).
- There were **47** drivers spoken to for matters occurring outside the controlled area, this figure does not include those vehicles stopped for being in bus stops.

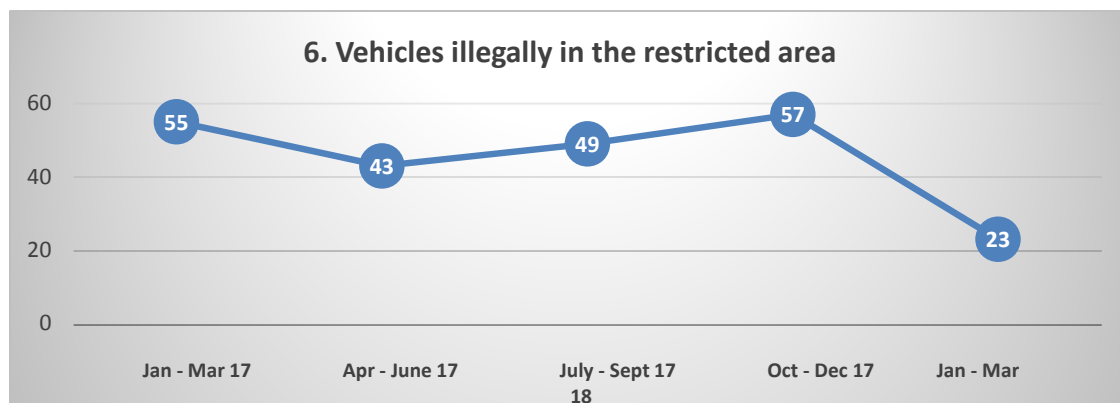


b. Other Issues:

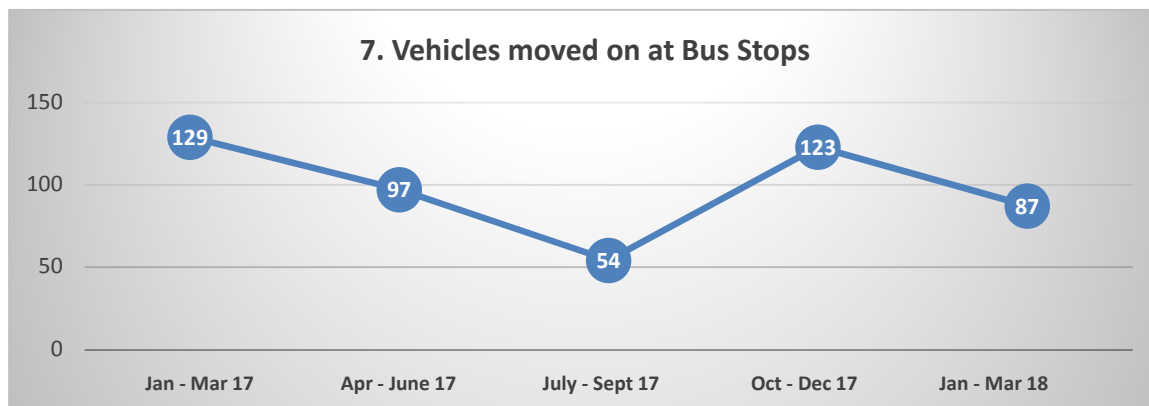
- CCB also conducted traffic management operations on Donegall Square North concerning the number 26 bus stop to prevent taxis from using the location as an unauthorised rank. The expanded taxi rank at Cleaver House in Donegall Square North has also contributed to alleviating the problem.
- CCB continues to provide assistance to Translink by conducting static traffic monitoring operations which alleviate access problems experienced by bus drivers. This is over and above the usual 'advice and warning' given to motorists in relation to offences.
- CCB officers continue to carry out static speed checks in the city centre area.
- CCB continues to monitor the controlled vehicle access zones within the city centre, including the Belfast One BID geographical area, pro-actively issuing advice and warning to drivers in relation to breaches of traffic signs.
- CCB officers continue to monitor parking in Bank Square.
- CCB officers have been appointed SPOC for DFI to investigate breaches of blue badge scheme.
- CCB report any issues regarding road conditions / surfaces that may impact on traffic flow. Eg. Seymour Street and Glengall Street

6. Vehicles Illegally in the City Centre Segment Area:

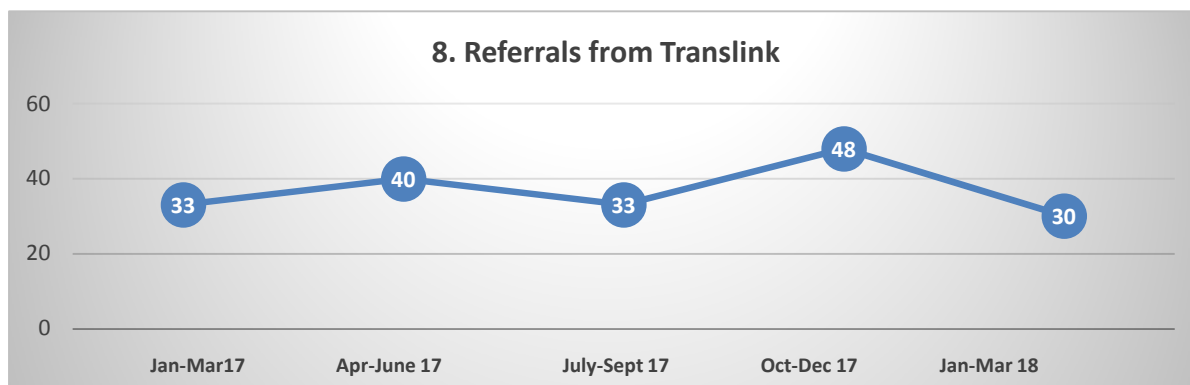
a. **23** drivers were challenged in relation to illegally being in the segment area.



- 7. Vehicles Moved On At Bus Stops:**
- a. The number of vehicles moved on from bus stops was **87**.
- Issues within the Belfast One BID geographical area include:
- b. Public hire taxis continue to be monitored on Donegall Square North.
 - c. Monitoring of bus lanes on Donegall Square North and also the bus stop on Bridge Street is on-going to keep them free-flowing and obstruction-free.



- 8. Total Number Of Referrals From Translink:**
- a. The total number of Metro liaisons in this quarter was **30**.
 - b. Hotspot areas: Donegall Square North, Donegall Square West, Bridge Street.



- 9. Media & Publicity:**
- a. CCB assisted the local PSNI Neighbourhood Team in launching the safer cycling campaign #seethecyclist

- 10. Funding 2018-19:**
- a. The Service Level Agreement has yet to be signed off by the partners.
 - b. A PR event will be held by the partners to sign off the SLA.
 - c. The Belfast One BID has committed to funding the City Centre Beat Scheme for the remainder of the BID term (until March 2021) to the value of £80,000 per annum.
 - d. Translink has provided £10,000 of funding in the current financial year.

- 11. Recommendations & Lobbying**
- a. CCB worked with the PSNI Crime Team and Crime Prevention Officers with training to recognising suspicious behaviour, which will help in the future delivery of Safe Shop training.
 - b. Engagement with BT over the telephone kiosks in Fountain Street is on-going.
 - c. Engagement with Belfast City Council regarding amendments to bye-laws for seizure of alcohol and introduction of bye-laws for busking is on-going.