

FILMING IN EDINBURGH

A GENERAL GUIDE



FREE ADVICE

Film Edinburgh is the film office for Edinburgh, East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. We are here to offer free advice to productions on the locations, crew and facilities that are available in this area. Our local knowledge will save you time in setting up your shoot. We know the locations that are interested in allowing filming and we've got a photo library to help you identify what you are looking for.

Film Edinburgh acts as the first point of liaison for productions with the City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian Council and Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland (Edinburgh, Lothians and Borders). We have the contacts you will need if your shoot requires parking, road closures, police personnel, street furniture removal etc.

NO PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO FILM ON PUBLIC STREETS AND FOOTPATHS

However, your filming should not cause disruption, obstruction or offence and you are expected to observe the basic health and safety procedures (i.e. assuring public safety, equipment grouped safely, signage/security and flying or guarding of cables etc). Exceptions include Multrees Walk, the terrace of Princes Mall and all of the city's parks and beaches where permission to film is required. Film Edinburgh can supply contacts. Where you require confirmation that filming can go ahead on public streets/pathways, production companies can request a **Notice of No Objection** from Film Edinburgh.

NOTICE OF NO OBJECTION

Notices of No Objection to filming in public streets and footpaths can be obtained from Film Edinburgh, prices from £55-550 depending on scale. Full details should be provided via a filming application form.

DRONE FILMING

Drone filming must comply with CAA regulations. The City of Edinburgh requires drone operators to seek permission to launch / land a drone from Council property and Council-maintained locations. Operators are asked to seek advice from statutory bodies such as the Police, Emergency Services and local authority with regard to public safety. Check the Council's drone policy for more information: <https://www.filmedinburgh.org/dyn/1768491477472/Drone-Filming-Guidelines-2026.pdf>

OBSTRUCTION OF FOOTPATH PERMIT

Permits are required for the laying of track, erection of platforms or other semi-permanent placements. Permits (from £120) can be obtained from the Permit Desk (up to 4 weeks notice) but filmmakers should speak to Film Edinburgh in the first instance for guidance.

POLICE NOTIFICATION

Low impact productions, which do not require assistance and do not involve any kind of weaponry, should notify Film Edinburgh of their locations and schedule at least 24 hours in advance so that we can notify the Police and Council. For larger scale productions, and where weapons (real or replica) are involved, at least 2 weeks' notice is required.

Where filming will have an impact on a street location, i.e. large crew, lights, requirement for crowd control etc, filmmakers are required to work closely with the Police and Roads departments so that all filming activities can be carried out safely and with the appropriate health and safety measures in place. Police and Roads departments are happy to give advice from the earliest stages of identifying locations. Their knowledge and insight may affect final location decisions.

For further information contact

Film Edinburgh

Tel: +44 (0)131 529 6273 / 6267 Email: film@edinburgh.gov.uk

Or visit our web site: <http://www.filmedinburgh.org>

PUBLIC INSURANCE LIABILITY

Productions should provide proof that they have public insurance liability of \geq £10m by supplying a copy to Film Edinburgh. Email film@edinburgh.gov.uk

PARKING

Film Edinburgh can help you find the most cost-effective ways to park in the city so please get in touch to discuss your requirements.

Single yellow line (SYL) dispensations

SYL dispensations allow essential technical vehicles to park on a nominated street's single yellow lines during restricted hours (usually 0830-1830) without incurring a fine. Although there are some restrictions on this privilege, for example main routes during rush hour (07.30 – 0930 hrs and 1600 – 1830 hrs Monday to Friday), side streets are generally not a problem. Common sense should be applied when parking vehicles to avoid obstructing traffic flow or access. *NB* Single yellow line dispensations are to facilitate parking close to location for vehicles transporting heavy equipment or providing power, rather than free parking for crew getting to work.

To organise yellow line dispensations you will need to provide the makes and registration numbers of specified vehicles, dates, times and filming locations, and provide payment, at least 24 hours ahead. There is a charge of £14 per vehicle per street per day. This is cost effective if you are planning to be in only one or two locations per day, but if you are moving around several locations you may find it cheaper to use a pay bay. Film Edinburgh can advise you about locations of single yellow lines and will link you through to NSL Services (which manages city centre parking on behalf of the council) to set up the dispensations and make payment.

Bay suspensions

You can request suspensions of Pay & Display parking bays for a small number of vehicles during the usual hours of parking restrictions. This way your space is guaranteed. Two days' notice (excluding weekends) is required and the charge is as metered (see below). Parking in Residents' Permit spaces will only be considered if there are no other alternatives and this requires at least three days' notice (excluding weekends). *NB* Only under exceptional circumstances will parking be allowed in Bus Lanes and Greenways routes, and then for loading/unloading only.

Where over half a street/block of bays or single yellow line is needed, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice should be applied for. This needs at least 3 weeks' notice (delivery of final paperwork no later than 2 weeks ahead) with costs from £641 + VAT.

Request	Notice required	Charge
Single yellow line dispensation	24 hr notice	£14 per vehicle per location
Pay & display bay suspension	2 working days	From £34.20 to £82.00 per day – cost per hour as meter
Permit holder bay suspension	3 working days	From £34.20 to £82.00 per day – cost per hour as meter

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