

Procedure Relating to Seized Items

Goods other than vehicles or perishable goods

- Goods (includes any articles or things) may only be seized if they are to be used as evidence in proceedings for illegal street trading or may be the subject to forfeiture in such proceedings.
- If legal proceedings **have not** been instituted within 28 days of seizure, the goods will be returned to the person from whom the goods were seized before the end of the 28 day period.
- Where legal proceedings **have** been instituted within 28 days of seizure, the goods will be returned to the person from whom they were seized following the conclusion of proceedings.
- If proceedings have been instituted within the 28 day period but discontinued, the goods will be returned to the person from whom they were seized once proceedings have been discontinued.
- Goods will not be returned if the person from whom they were seized, or the owner if different, cannot be identified or refuses to accept them. In these circumstances we will apply to the Courts for a disposal order.
- Goods will not be returned if a forfeiture order is made under section 16C of the 1987 Act.
- Where costs are awarded to the City Corporation following the conclusion of proceedings, and they have not been paid within 28 days of the order for costs being made, goods will not be returned until the costs are paid. In these circumstances, the City Corporation may dispose of the goods and secure the best possible price for them. Where the sum obtained from the disposal of the goods exceeds the costs awarded by the court, the excess shall be returned to the person to whom the goods belong.

Motor Vehicles:

- Vehicles may only be seized if they are to be used as evidence in proceedings for illegal street trading or may be the subject of forfeiture in such proceedings.
- We will make a request to the Secretary of State within 14 days of seizure in order to ascertain the identity of the person from whom the vehicle was seized.

- Where the results of the above request **have been** received by the City Corporation within 14 days of seizure and legal proceedings **have not been** instituted within 28 days of seizure (the 'proceedings period'), the vehicle will be returned to the person from whom it was seized before the end of the 28 day period.
- Where the results of the above request **have not been** received by the City Corporation within 14 days of seizure the 'proceedings period' will be extended to 14 days following receipt of the requested results. In these circumstances, if legal proceedings have not been instituted within the 'proceedings period' the vehicle will be returned to its owner before the expiry of that period.
- Where legal proceedings **have** been instituted within 28 days of seizure, the goods will be returned to the person from whom they were seized, or the vehicle's owner, following the conclusion of proceedings.
- If proceedings have been instituted within the 28 day period but discontinued, the vehicle will be returned to the person from whom they were seized once proceedings have been discontinued.
- A vehicle will not be returned if the person from whom it was seized, or the owner if different, cannot be identified or refuses to accept it. In these circumstances we will apply to the Courts for a disposal order.
- A vehicle will not be returned if a forfeiture order is made under section 16C of the 1987 Act.
- If the vehicle is used for ice cream trading, the owner or registered keeper of the vehicle will be permitted to collect it within three days of notifying us of their intention in writing irrespective of whether legal proceedings are being instituted.
- However, the owner or registered keeper of an ice cream vehicle will not be permitted to collect it if they have been convicted of an offence under s.87 of the 1987 Act (illegal street trading) within three years of the seizure taking place.

Perishable Goods

- Perishable Goods (includes articles or things) may only be seized if they are to be used as evidence in proceedings for illegal street trading or may be the subject of forfeiture in such proceedings.
- Where perishable goods are seized we will give to the person from whom they are seized a notice detailing how the goods may be collected from the Corporation.

- If perishable goods are not collected within 48 hours of seizure the City Corporation may dispose of them. In disposing of perishable goods the City Corporation will secure the best possible price for them. Whilst waiting for perishable goods to be collected the City Corporation will store them at an appropriate temperature.
- If legal proceedings **have not** been instituted within 28 days of seizure, the goods will be returned to the person from whom the goods were seized before the end of the 28 day period (unless disposed of as above)
- Where legal proceedings **have** been instituted within 28 days of seizure, the goods will be returned to the person from whom they were seized following the conclusion of proceedings (unless disposed of as above).
- If proceedings have been instituted within the 28 day period but discontinued, the goods will be returned to the person from whom they were seized once proceedings have been discontinued (unless disposed of as above).
- Goods will not be returned if the person from whom they were seized, or the owner if different, cannot be identified or refuses to accept them. In these circumstances we will apply to the Courts for a disposal order.
- Goods will not be returned if a forfeiture order is made under section 16C of the 1987 Act.
- Where costs are awarded to the City Corporation following the conclusion of proceedings, and they have not been paid within 28 days of the order for costs being made, goods will not be returned until the costs are paid. In these circumstances, the City Corporation may dispose of the goods and secure the best possible price for them. Where the sum obtained from the disposal of the goods exceeds the costs awarded by the court, the excess shall be returned to the person to whom the goods belong
- Where proceedings are not instituted within 28 days of their seizure, and the goods have been disposed of by the City Corporation following non-collection within 48 hours of seizure, compensation may be recovered from the City Corporation by any person who had a legal interest in the goods at the time of their seizure.