

Regulations covering Street Collections

If you want to collect money or sell goods on behalf of a charitable cause in a street or public place, you need a permit from the Local Authority. This applies to anywhere that there is public access, which can be on either private or public property

In certain areas (e.g. shopping complexes), you also need separate permission from the owners or managers of the site.

The permit is free of charge and is a legal requirement to ensure collectors are properly authorised and that all donations are collected in a secure way and are properly accounted for. The permit will normally be for a collection to take place at a specific time and place.

Pressure on town centres can be intense. Normally only one collection is permitted at a time, and may be restricted to Fridays and Saturdays. Organisations get only one slot a year and they must either be local or have a nationwide profile.

Swindon has information on how to apply for a licence on their website (look under "licences"). You can also find the full regulations which also cover what information the collectors need to display and how the money is to be collected and counted.