

AnTaisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2019

Dublin City Centre: 25th out of 40 Towns / Cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

As it looks forward to welcoming record numbers of tourists this summer, Dublin City Centre has recorded one of its best results. Only 2 of the 25 areas surveyed were heavily littered – on Francis Street and Capel Street - with just one litter blackspot, at Lamb Alley near Iveagh Markets. The high-profile areas of Grafton Street, Temple Bar, Henry Street, O'Connell Street, Christchurch and Stephens Green were all in the excellent state we have come to expect. It is to be hoped that this level of cleanliness extends beyond the summer season - which has not tended to be the case with Dublin City in the past.

Capel Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along this busy street was a positive one. Attractive paving contributed to the appearance. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Wicklow Street: Grade A. Wicklow Street was an excellent site in terms of presentation and litter. It is home to some fine red brick buildings which were in very good condition. The paving, planting and overall impression was of a very well presented and maintained environment.

Green Street: Grade B. Green Street created an untidy and littered impression. The level of litter was such that it was verging on becoming a Grade C site. There was a wide variety of litter, mostly food related, and other discarded items e.g. umbrella and cardboard boxes.

Grafton Street: Grade A. It was striking how clean Grafton Street was – the paving underfoot was spotless throughout. Bins, bollards and most of the street signage was in good order (some were in need of replacing). As one of Ireland's premier shopping streets it is great to see it looking so clean.

Temple Bar: Grade A. There was nice use of floral displays and some seating along Temple Bar – a welcome feature for any weary tourists. The footpaths were very clean, some bottle caps had become trapped between the cobble stones. The overall impression was a very good one with regard to litter and presentation.

O'Connell Street (Upper and Lower): Grade A. The paving along O'Connell Street looked very well. The area directly outside the GPO was exceptionally clean, an excellent welcome for any visitor to this historic site. The remainder of the street was also very good with regard to litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order e.g. bins, bollards, bicycle parking etc.

St. Stephen's Green, Park: Grade A. St. Stephen's Green looked very well on a busy sunny day. Grounds were wonderfully maintained. Seating, signage, bins, etc. were in very good condition. Care needs to be taken to ensure there isn't a build up of litter at the pond, as you approach from Grafton Street. The remainder of the park was spotless.

Castle Street: Grade B. The level of litter along Castle Street was such that it was verging on becoming a Grade C site. Graffiti was also pronounced. Much of the litter was either behind a large gate (with letter box attached) or underneath the iron grills on the pavements. Both of these will only deteriorate if not addressed.

Christchurch Place: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this busy tourist area. Graffiti was widespread on a wall and a couple of post-boxes. The paving, bicycle parking, signage and tree planting were in good order.

Blanchardstown By Pass: Grade B+. (Roundabout at M50 and Blanchardstown By Pass heading to Cavan) Litter (mostly sweet papers, plastic bottles and paper) was present on the roadside underneath the bridge form shopping centre and also at the traffic lights from roundabout. The grasslands were well maintained.

Wellington Quay: Grade A. The overall impression along this main thoroughfare towards O'Connell Street was a good one in terms of litter. Some of the street signage was old / illegible. This is in sharp contrast to clear and clean blue modern signage for directions to other locations.

Parliament Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along Parliament Street was a positive one with wide paving, some 'olde' style shop fronts, bins, bollards, bicycle parking and tree planting all in very good condition.

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Essex Street, East: Grade A. This was an excellent site. The cobbled street was lined by wide paving on either side, creating a great sense of space. Graffiti did feature on several surfaces. Street signage was so old that there were no letters on the sign. Apart from this signage the remainder of the street was in very good order e.g. silver bollards, planter boxes, paving etc.

Lamb Alley: Grade D. The overall impression of this street (rear of Iveagh Markets / Francis Street) was a littered one but it was the piles and piles of rubbish in the basement of a red brick building which brought down the overall grade. There is plenty of signage relating to 'Site Office' / 'Safety Notice' / 'Protected by 24/7' etc so somebody is clearly claiming 'responsibility' for same.

Site at Corner of Capel Street and Parnell Street: Grade C. What should be an oasis in the city, a small 'pocket park', has been subject to abuse. There were heavy levels of litter throughout, most notably alcohol cans. It has now been closed off with metal railings – this is a real pity when the intention was to provide an urban 'green space' in which to relax.

Christchurch Cathedral: Grade A. The grounds of Christchurch Cathedral presented well with regard to litter. There was plenty of seating and bins.

Bachelor's Walk: Grade A. The 'Boardwalk' presented very well and was enhanced with large planter boxes and colourful hanging baskets. It was excellent with regard to litter.

Westmoreland Street: Grade B. This was a mixed site in terms of litter e.g. area near hotels was very good but area close to Luas stop was littered, especially at the seating. Sweet papers, alcohol bottles, cans, cigarette butts and heavy levels of chewing gum were all present.

Navan Road: Grade A. (from Auburn Avenue Exit to Ashtown Roundabout) A clean and tidy impression was created travelling along this route. Bus stops were not littered and grass verges had been cut.

College Green: Grade A. A busy site with buses and Luas travelling through. All was in good order with regard to litter. The 'olde' style street lamps have been carefully painted. Signage / maps were in very good condition but older street signs were poor e.g. at 'Tourism' office.

O'Connell Bridge: Grade B+. The surface of the paving along O'Connell Bridge was such that chewing gum was very obvious. This took away from an otherwise attractively presented environment where the central median had plenty of colourfully painted planter boxes.

Henry Street: Grade A. Attractive paving and substantial planter boxes create a very good impression along this pedestrianised shopping street. It scored very well with regard to litter and all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition.

Aungier Street: Grade B+. Litter was most pronounced at the George's Street end of Aungier Street and graffiti was definitely a feature along Aungier Street and particularly bad in some areas. There were several vacant / unoccupied buildings, some creating a negative impression.

Liffey Street: Grade B. Chewing gum and cigarette butts were most pronounced with lower levels of other litter items.

Dublin Castle: Grade B+. The main entrance from Dame Street creates a very positive first impression of the grounds of Dublin Castle and this is sustained for almost all of the remainder of the site. However, there was a definite litter presence at the low planting in front of 'The Printworks' and the bicycle parking adjacent to same. These areas took away from an otherwise very well presented environment.

ESB Station on Francis Street: Grade C. There were heavy accumulations of litter at this small area. Despite the appearance of activity within, i.e. parked vans and cars, it scored very poorly with heavy levels of alcohol cans and some food related litter.

Garden of Remembrance: Grade A. A commendable site, fitting for a Garden of Remembrance. Seating, planted areas, grass, painted railings, water feature etc. were all in very good condition and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.