



Power cleaners to tackle city centre streets

Treacy Hogan

Environment Correspondent

PRIVATE cleaners armed with power-washers are taking to the streets of Dublin.

They will work 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, washing 115 city centre streets.

Their job is also to remove chewing gum and graffiti, pick up litter outside shops and take down any unsightly posters.

In the winter, they will grit the footpath as well as operating an emergency rapid response hotline for more than 2,000 businesses.

There had been stinging criticism at the treacherous state of many of the capital's city centre paths during the last big freeze-up just a few months ago.

The private company has been brought in by the Dublin City Business Improvement District (BID) organisation in a €300,000 deal.

It insisted yesterday that the private clean-up was not a vote of no-confidence in Dublin City Council's cleaning service.

A council spokesperson said they would continue to provide baseline services in the area, while the private operators would "be targeting graffiti and other emergency issues".

The removal of stickers and cable ties will also be included in the new agreement between BID and ARAMARK which provides cleaning services in 22 countries.