

31 March 2023

Kia ora,

### **Graffiti costs**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 27 February 2023. You requested the following information:

- 1. Total cost of removal of graffiti for each of the last three financial years ie 2020,2021,2022 ie Year ended 30 June 20XX*
- 2. The number of cases reported to the Wellington City Council that actioned for each of the years. Effectively do not include those that not considered for removal by WCC if not responsible to remove.*
- 3. The KPI's for the monitoring of the graffiti reported to the Councillors on a regular basis. I copy of the said details presented to Council for the Year ended 30 June 2022. This is to include all committees they may or may not include the full Council.*
- 4. Preventative measures introduced by the Wellington City Council in the year ended 30 June 2022 to deter graffiti in the city.*
- 5. Prosecutions taken by the Wellington City council of offenders that successful in each of the years ie 2020, 2021, 2022*
- 6. Copy of the legislation under which Wellington City Council operates to deter graffiti. I can confirm that some cities have legislation that applies within specific cities in NZ.*

As previously advised to you on 23 March, Wellington City Council has granted your request for information.

#### **1. Total cost of removal of graffiti for each of the last three financial years**

When looking at the Council's budget with respect to graffiti, funds are in place for the management of graffiti, rather than specifically just for its removal.

The 2022/23 Annual Plan budget for graffiti management is \$1.11 million. This includes materials, services, fleet costs, labour, and overhead costs. Within this amount, the budget for management

of graffiti is \$588,000 per annum which includes programmes that have a focus on prevention, however the current focus of the budget is on removal.

The table below provides a breakdown of the amount spent by the Customer & Community Services team on the removal of graffiti by financial year.

Over the last two years we have seen an increase of tagging in the city which reflects the significant increase in tagging post covid lockdowns across the city, on Council assets and private/business assets.

The Council also looks at interventions to address issues before they happen, improving the perceptions of safety, and improved environments such as lighting to assist with prevention alongside CCTV.

Year	Amount Spent
2020	\$423,242
2021	\$434,783
2022	\$540,400

- 2. The number of cases reported to the Wellington City Council that actioned for each of the years. Effectively do not include those that not considered for removal by WCC if not responsible to remove.**

We are unable to break down the data to those actioned only. The below outlines the total number of reports.

Year	Reports
2020	9,045
2021	13,307
2022	8,413

- 3. The KPI's for the monitoring of the graffiti reported to the Councillors on a regular basis. I copy of the said details presented to Council for the Year ended 30 June 2022. This is to include all committees they may or may not include the full Council.**

The Council has one Long Term Plan Key Performance Indicator relating to graffiti, it is: Graffiti removal – response time frames (%) met. The target for this KPI is 80%. The KPI has met (or exceeded) its target for each of the financial years requested (2019/20 - 84%; 2020/21 - 92%; 2021/22 - 93%). During the financial year non-financial performance is reported to Council via a quarterly report. This report contains performance information that is reported on an exception basis. The graffiti KPI has met its target therefore is not included in the published reports (as an example see our website for quarterly reports dating back to 2015/2016 financial year: <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans-and-reports/quarterly-report>).

- 4. Preventative measures introduced by the Wellington City Council in the year ended 30 June 2022 to deter graffiti in the city.**

Alongside removal, the Council are putting in place more effective and responsive approach to graffiti removal, as well as developing new programmes to address prevention. More information regarding this can be found on the Council's [website](#) which also contains a link to the Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan, which outlines what is being done about graffiti in our communities, including the proactive approach the Council takes working with contractors, property managers, and other owners of assets with respect to graffiti.

**5. Prosecutions taken by the Wellington City council of offenders that successful in each of the years ie 2020, 2021, 2022**

Wellington City Council has not prosecuted for graffiti in the years listed. Police are responsible for prosecutions of individuals that are caught vandalising public and private properties. This part of the request has been refused under section 17(g) of the Act as we do not hold this information. You may need to acquire this information from either Police or Ministry of Justice.

**6. Copy of the legislation under which Wellington City Council operates to deter graffiti.**

Wellington City Council operates under the [Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan \(wellington.govt.nz\)](#)

**Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Claudia Holgate  
**Senior Advisor, Official Information**