

24 July 2024



Kia ora



Graffiti Costs

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 13 June 2024. You requested the following information:

- How much does the council spend annually on graffiti removal and prevention? Could you provide a breakdown for the past five years if possible?

Wellington City Council has partly granted your request for information.

Graffiti Removal

Council's primary focus is the removal of graffiti from Council assets, this includes transport and roading assets in addition to buildings. The presence of graffiti attracts more graffiti; prompt removal deprives the graffiti vandals of the recognition they seek thereby acting as a deterrent.

With this in mind, the below table provides the total direct spend on graffiti removal over the last five financial years (across transport, roading and building assets):

Financial Year	Total (GST Excl.)
2019/20	\$475,444
2020/21	\$501,059
2021/22	\$488,459
2022/23	\$619,896
2023/24	\$626,000

Please note:

- These figures include costs associated with contracts, services, materials, and general expenses related to removal of graffiti.
- This table does not include:
 - Staff costs applied to graffiti management, including prevention, as part of their day-to-day roles.
 - Funding relating to safety improvements.
- Totals are GST exclusive.

Graffiti Prevention

Further to the information provided within 'Graffiti Removal' above, a wide range of Council staff time is applied to graffiti management, including prevention, as part of their day-to-day roles. This includes our Contact Centre staff who receive and triage reports of graffiti, and many roles in our Connected Communities Business Unit. This is supported within the Council's [Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan 2014](#).

Our Connected Communities business unit, in particular our City Safety team, undertake relationship management with our graffiti contractor, respond to reports of graffiti that is out of the agreed scope of the contractor, undertake preventative initiatives, and improve safety in the city. With respect to the costs surrounding person hours of staff involved with graffiti prevention, the Council does not hold this information as staff are salaried and we do not record the number of hours spent on the varying areas of their roles. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

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

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.

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

Thank you again for your request,

Kind regards

Ollie Marchant

Official Information