

From: [Mary Birch](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Official Information Act request - Vandalism costs
Date: Monday, 8 December 2014 17:08:23

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your information request of 11 November 2014 in respect of vandalism costs, i am now able to provide a response.

You requested:

1. "How much does council spend responding to vandalism each year? I would like the costs for the past three financial years."

The financial cost of responding to vandalism is:

[REDACTED]			
2011/12	237,300	38,000	16,000 estimated
2012/13	324,600	59,000	16,000 estimated
2013/14	424,700	36,000	16,000 estimated

2. "What are the most common types of vandalism the council deals with? For example, graffiti, damage to council property, theft."

Graffiti is the most common type of vandalism. Other types of vandalism include, but is not limited to:

- smashed windows
- doors kicked in,
- etchings on mirrors and glass
- items ripped off walls
- break-ins
- theft (the theft of anything metal where this can be sold for scrap metal)
- toilets seats are ripped off or stolen
- clean up of vomit or faeces being spread across walls
- council property set on fire
- wet toilet paper thrown onto the ceiling where it sticks and stays in place.
- Damage also occurs in parks to bins, seats, picnic tables and playgrounds.

3. "What council sites are most prone to vandalism? For example, cemeteries, toilets, parks."

Council sites most prone to vandalism are our unmanned sites - public toilets and parks

buildings, fences and pedestrian underpasses.

4. *“How does the council try to deter vandalism? For example, CCTV cameras, security patrols, lighting.”*

In terms of graffiti – Council operates under a prompt removal principle with a KPI of 95% removal within 2 working days for reported jobs. Council engages with Police for high tagging incidents. Sometimes murals are arranged to be painted on some of the sites where higher levels of tagging occur e.g. bus shelters and exeloo toilets.

Council emphasis is on prominent security lighting in and around Council buildings. There is generally lighting that covers the front of buildings and a sensor controlled security light at the rear of the buildings. The frontages of some of Council’s buildings are also covered by street lighting and shopping complex lighting.

Security bars are placed over windows (on the inside) where known break-ins have occurred.

There are also security guards on site during late afternoon/evening for both Garden Place and Chartwell libraries (the only libraries that have late nights now). Weekend monitoring is also provided in Garden Place.

Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras operate inside various Council buildings e.g. Garden Place Library. It is also important to note that Garden Place has external CCTV cameras that cover the general space.

Amendments to some of the fixtures and fitting in the public arena have also occurred. For example:

- In public toilets stainless steel toilet bowls are installed instead of porcelain bowls.
- Mirrors are removed in some areas and in some cases a film is applied to the mirror or windows to prevent the glass being etched.
- When upgrading public toilets robust partitioning that is difficult to drill through, kick in or damage is used.
- All fixtures and fittings are bolted to the walls/floors in order to make them difficult to be removed or pulled out.

Council is proactively engaged in deterring vandalism and regularly applies Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

On Behalf of the Privacy Officer

Mary Birch

Team Leader | Democracy