

9 January 2024

Imran Dole
fyi-request-24753-0d1e423e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Kia ora Imran

Official information request – Removal of graffiti at Waitangi Park

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 15 November 2023. You requested the following information:

- I am writing to inquire about the decision to remove the Palestinian graffiti at the dedicated graffiti areas at Waitangi skate park. I am interested in understanding the information related to this decision. Specifically, I would like to request the following:*
 - A comprehensive list of all individuals or groups consulted in the process of making the decision to remove the graffiti.*
 - Any correspondence, memos, or documents related to the decision to remove the graffiti.*
 - Information about any collaborations with external parties regarding the decision to remove the graffiti.*
 - A list of policies related to when graffiti must be removed and if graffiti has been removed in the past and for what reasons.*

The decision to remove graffiti (or not) rests with Wellington City Council. Recent political messaging at Waitangi Park was removed by Wellington Waterfront and City Parks team of Wellington City Council, as it has been in other parts of the city. Wellington City Council contracts responsibility for removal of this unauthorised signage to other parties rather than undertaking it directly.

Wellington City Council has **granted** your request for ‘Any correspondence, memos, or documents related to the decision to remove the graffiti’. Below are the documents that fall in scope of this part of your request and my decision to release the document. Any consultations or collaborations that occurred about the decision to remove the graffiti is provided within the body of this documentation and correspondence.

Item	Document name/description	Decision
1	Emails relating to decision to remove graffiti	Release with redactions
2	Documents relating to decision to remove graffiti	Release with redactions

Please note that information has been withheld from these documents under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 7(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals.
- Section 7(2)(f)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees.

Information withheld under section 7(2)(a) are names, email addresses and/or telephone numbers. Emails withheld under section 7(2)(f)(i) are those arriving at the appropriate wording of public communications associated with graffiti removal. Some communications have also been withheld as they are not within the scope of your information request – these are administrative in nature and are not associated with the decision to remove the graffiti.

You have also asked to be provided with a list of policies related to when graffiti must be removed and if graffiti has been removed in the past and for what reasons. The council routinely removes graffiti from its assets and from public places. Any graffiti considered to be offensive is removed with greater urgency. More detail of our rules and policies relating to signage, posters etc in public spaces and graffiti are available from our website, such as on the following links:

- [Signs and posters - Rules about signs and posters - Wellington City Council](#)
- [Guidelines for temporary signs in public places \(wellington.govt.nz\)](#)
- <https://wellington.govt.nz/property-rates-and-building/property/report-graffiti>
- [Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan \(wellington.govt.nz\)](#)
- <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws/other-bylaws/public-places-bylaw-2022>

As the above documents are available on the Council's website, your request to be provided with them is **refused** under section 17(d) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested is publicly available.

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. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Susan Sales

Official Information

From: [Shane Binnie](#)
To: [Margo Ray](#)
Subject: Graffiti/political messaging removal
Date: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 5:54:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Kia ora and good evening Margo,

As requested.

Wellington's Waterfront holds a politically neutral stance and operates under the Waterfront Framework. The Waterfront is a public place, somewhere to live, work and play for everyone. Recent political messaging was removed as it has been in other parts of the city.

Should you wish to add – *The waterfront is also to be a safe and accessible place for all*

Please feel free to forward to other relevant departments within council

Ngā mihi
Shane

Shane Binnie

Wellington Waterfront and City Parks Manager | Wellington City Council

M s7(2)(a)

E [.@..](#) | **W** Wellington.govt.nz



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If received in error you are asked to destroy this email and contact the sender immediately. Your assistance is appreciated.

Out of Scope

From: Mark Farrar <[.@..](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 10:49 am
To: Margo Ray <[.@..](#)>
Subject: RE: Palestine graffiti

Ok, will get onto it now, we have a 4 hr response once logged, I can reply to Nicola once I have an ETA

From: Margo Ray <[.@..](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 10:16 am
To: Mark Farrar <[.@..](#)>
Subject: FW: Palestine graffiti

One for you plse Mark!
Cheers, Margo

From: Councillor Nicola Young <[.@..](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 9:43 am
To: James Roberts <[.@..](#)>
Subject: Palestine graffiti

Hi James . Apparently, there's a large 'Free Palestine ' sign at Waitangi Park. I've been asked whether it has Council approval (I hope not!) . Assuming it hasn't, could it be removed promptly

please? Thank you. Nicola

Nicola Young - by iPhone
Lambton Ward City Councillor

s 7(2)(a)

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 6:45:59 PM

To: Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>; Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>; Shane Binnie <Shane.Binnie@wcc.govt.nz>; Mark Farrar <Mark.Farrar@wcc.govt.nz>

Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Meredith Keys <Meredith.Keys@wcc.govt.nz>; Maria Belich <Maria.Belich@wcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

Would be really good to agree on a response soon please? If not I may need to wait till morning, however most messages are Instagram stories which will disappear so I want to respond before they do.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

s7(2)(f)(i)



Out of scope



s7(2)(f)(i)

From: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 14 November 2023 17:08
To: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

Update. Just working on some points for all parties to use.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:47:09 PM
To: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

The Contact Centre are also receiving calls about it so can we loop them into any response? 😊

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

M s 7(2)(a) | E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 14 November 2023 16:41
To: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>; Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

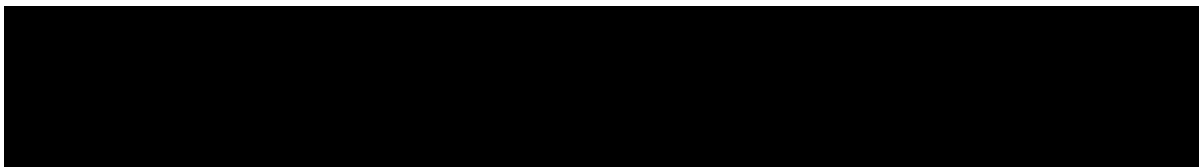
Thanks Margo! We need a response quite urgently if possible as the messages keep rolling in!

Simone Borgstede

Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

M s 7(2)(a) | E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 14 November 2023 16:39
To: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Simone Borgstede

<Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>;
Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

Hi all. It was reported as graffiti and sent through to that team to address. Leave it with me while I find out more.

M

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 4:36:42 PM
To: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>; Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>;
Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>; Dave Burgess <Dave.Burgess@wcc.govt.nz>;
Nadine Walker <Nadine.Walker@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

Kia ora

Just copying in Mayor's Office too, as likely to get a few queries in their direction.

Ngā mihi nā, Vic

Victoria Barton-Chapple

Senior Media Specialist | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

Ps 7(2)(a) **M**s 7(2)(a)

E victoria.barton-chapple@wcc.govt.nz | **W** Wellington.govt.nz |

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From: Simone Borgstede <Simone.Borgstede@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: 14 November 2023 16:33
To: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz>; Victoria Barton-Chapple <Victoria.Barton-Chapple@wcc.govt.nz>; Richard MacLean <Richard.MacLean@wcc.govt.nz>
Cc: Mollie Coulton <Mollie.Coulton@wcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Pro-Palestine mural removed from Waitangi Park

Kia ora Margo 😊

We are receiving dozens of messages from residents very upset that a pro-Palestine mural was removed from the shield wall at Waitangi Park.

We've been informed by the Contact Centre that Councillor Young requested it be removed.

s7(2)(f)(i)

Ngā mihi nui,

Simone Borgstede

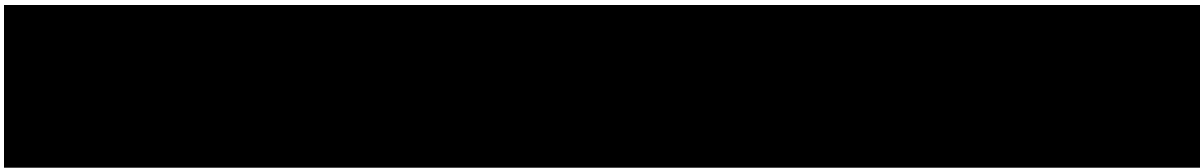
Kaitohutohu Pāhopori | Senior Social Media Advisor | Communications & Engagement | Wellington City Council

M s7(2)(a) E simone.borgstede@wcc.govt.nz | W Wellington.govt.nz |

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Out of scope

On Tue, Nov 14, 2023 at 11:12 AM Billy Murray <@..> wrote:

Hi Dave,

Approval or confirmation has just come through from Mark.

If you haven't removed this already, can you please remove this ASAP?

Any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Cheers

Billy

From: Mark Farrar <@..>

Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 11:11 am

To: Billy Murray <@..>

Cc: Sacha Wakeling <@..>

Subject: RE: [#SR-856916] Fwd: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park

That's a yes, as discussed, I talked with Shane too (Waterfront Manager) about their position of political statements

From: Billy Murray <@.>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 7:51 am
To: Mark Farrar <@.>
Cc: Sacha Wakeling <@.>
Subject: FW: [#SR-856916] Fwd: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park

Morena,

As per previous instructions, can I confirm that we are continuing to instruct SB to remove this?

Please advise.

Cheers

Billy

From: Info at WCC <@.>
Sent: Monday, 13 November 2023 10:57 pm
To: Connected Communities <@.>
Cc: Billy Murray <@.>
Subject: Fwd: [#SR-856916] Fwd: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park

Hi

We have received several tickets in respect of a flag placed on the graffiti boards at waitangi park

We have always been instructed not to touch these boards as some consider them as free boards for the use of taggers they often attract political statements which in the past we have been instructed to leave. Can someone please advise if this is to remain or be removed

Cheers

Dave

On Mon, 13 Nov 9:47 AM , s7(2)(a) wrote:
Please arrange to have this removed ASAP.

Please keep me updated on the progress

Many thanks

s7(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s7(2)(a)
Date: 13/11/2023 09:42
Subject: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park
To: xxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx
Cc:

Please arrange to have this removed ASAP

Please keep me updated on the progress.

Many thanks

s7(2)(a)

SB MAINTENANCE LTD
0800 726246
PO box 33201 Petone
Lower Hutt 5046

E Mail: sbmaintenanceltd@gmail.com

Web: www.sbmaintenance.co.nz

Operations: s7(2)(a)

Accounts: s7(2)(a)

"for your total graffiti solution"

Fwd: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park #SR-856916

NOT REQUESTED

by s7(2)(a) on Mon, 13 Nov 9:47 AM via Email

Requested for : s7(2)(a)

TICKET PROPERTIES

Urgency Low	Impact Low	Priority Urgent	Status Closed
Source Email	Type Service Request	Group Graffiti Contractor (urgent)	Agent --
Major incident type --	Business impact --	Impacted locations --	No. of customers impacted --
Site Location --	Telephone Number --	Common Issues --	Other Line number --
Time call was made/received --	Device Used --	Type of Call --	Category External Customer Service
Sub-Category --	External reference received --	External reference ID --	Skip notifications --
Incident address --	Incident location --	Created By Jayne Freemantle	Due by Mon, 13 Nov 1:47 PM

DESCRIPTION

Please arrange to have this removed ASAP.

Please keep me updated on the progress

Many thanks

s7(2)(a)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: s 7(2)(a)

Date: 13/11/2023 09:42

Subject: Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park

To: info@wcc.govt.nz

Cc:

Please arrange to have this removed ASAP

Please keep me updated on the progress.

Many thanks

s7(2)(f)

REQUESTED ITEMS (1)

Graffiti

DESCRIPTION

To report graffiti on public property or private buildings

Stage Requested	Is the tagging offensive? Yes	What is offensive about it? Palestine Related graffiti	Service Waterfront
Type of graffiti Other or unknown	Description Highly offensive graffiti at Waitangi Skate Park	Skip notifications? false	Incident address .
		Location .	

APPROVAL LOGS

COMMENTS

From **Jayne Freemantle** (jayne.freemantle@wcc.govt.nz) on **Mon, 13 Nov 10:50 PM** as **Private note**

Rang through to SB Maintenance and left voicemail.

From **Graffiti Contractor** (sbmaintenanceltd@gmail.com) on **Mon, 13 Nov 10:56 PM** as **Outbound email**

Hi

We have received several tickets in respect of a flag placed on the graffiti boards at waitangi park

We have always been instructed not to touch these boards as some consider them as free boards for the use of taggers they often attract political statements which in the past we have been instructed to leave. Can someone please advise if this is to remain or be removed

Cheers

From **System User Agent** (system.user@wcc.govt.nz) on **Mon, 13 Nov 11:04 PM** as **Private note**

Important!

A valid ticket location is required before integration can dispatch ticket.

Issue: Invalid location data.

Fixit Request #SR-857351

NOT REQUESTED

by Demi Lewton (demi.lewton@wcc.govt.nz) on Mon, 13 Nov 5:57 PM via FIXIT

Requested for : Demi Lewton (demi.lewton@wcc.govt.nz)

TICKET PROPERTIES

Urgency Low	Impact Low	Priority Urgent	Status Closed
Source FIXIT	Type Service Request	Group CS - Whai Repo	Agent --
Major incident type --	Business impact --	Impacted locations --	No. of customers impacted --
Site Location --	Telephone Number --	Common Issues --	Other Line number --
Time call was made/received --	Device Used --	Type of Call --	Category External Customer Service
Sub-Category --	Skip notifications true	Incident address 107 Cable Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, New Zealand	Incident location -41.2920178,174.7847361 Created By Angela Cosgrove

Due by
Fri, 17 Nov 11:29 AM

DESCRIPTION

Hi,

no photo but have had a report that there is a Palestine flag that has been graffitied at the Waitangi Park basketball court. Can we please have this removed please.

thanks

Address: 107 Cable Street, Te Aro, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

Latitude: -41.2920178, Longitude: 174.7847361

Google Link: <http://maps.google.co.nz/?q=-41.2920178,174.7847361&z=19> (<http://maps.google.co.nz/?q=-41.2920178,174.7847361&z=19>)

Demi Lewton

Phone: s7(2)(a)

REQUESTED ITEMS (1)

Graffiti

DESCRIPTION

To report graffiti on public property or private buildings

Stage	Is the tagging offensive?	What is offensive about it?	Service
Requested	Yes	offensive Palestine flag graffiti'd	Private property
			Is the private graffiti in scope or out of scope for removal? See Solution article for details. In scope

Type of graffiti	Description	Skip notifications?	Incident address
Other or unknown	Hi, no photo but have had a report that there is a Palestine flag that has been graffitied at the Waitangi Park basketball court. Can we please have this removed please.	false	na
		Location	
		na	

APPROVAL LOGS

COMMENTS

From **Angela Cosgrove** (angela.cosgrove@wcc.govt.nz) on **Mon, 13 Nov 6:22 PM** as **Private note**
this is out of scope for the Graffiti team

From **Graffiti Contractor** (sbmaintenanceltd@gmail.com) on **Mon, 13 Nov 6:28 PM** as **Private note**
These walls are deemed public walls Taffeta are allowed to put whatever they like on them.

A decision within council needs to be made if it should be removed or not

From **Tangi Uriarau** (tangi.uriarau@wcc.govt.nz) on **Mon, 13 Nov 10:43 PM** as **Private note**
Should have been logged to Waterfront.

From **Demi Lewton** (demi.lewton@wcc.govt.nz) on **Tue, 14 Nov 9:16 AM** as **Public note**
Hi this has not be sorted and therefore should not be logged as resolved.

Thanks

FW: Palestine graffiti #SR-857770

NOT REQUESTED

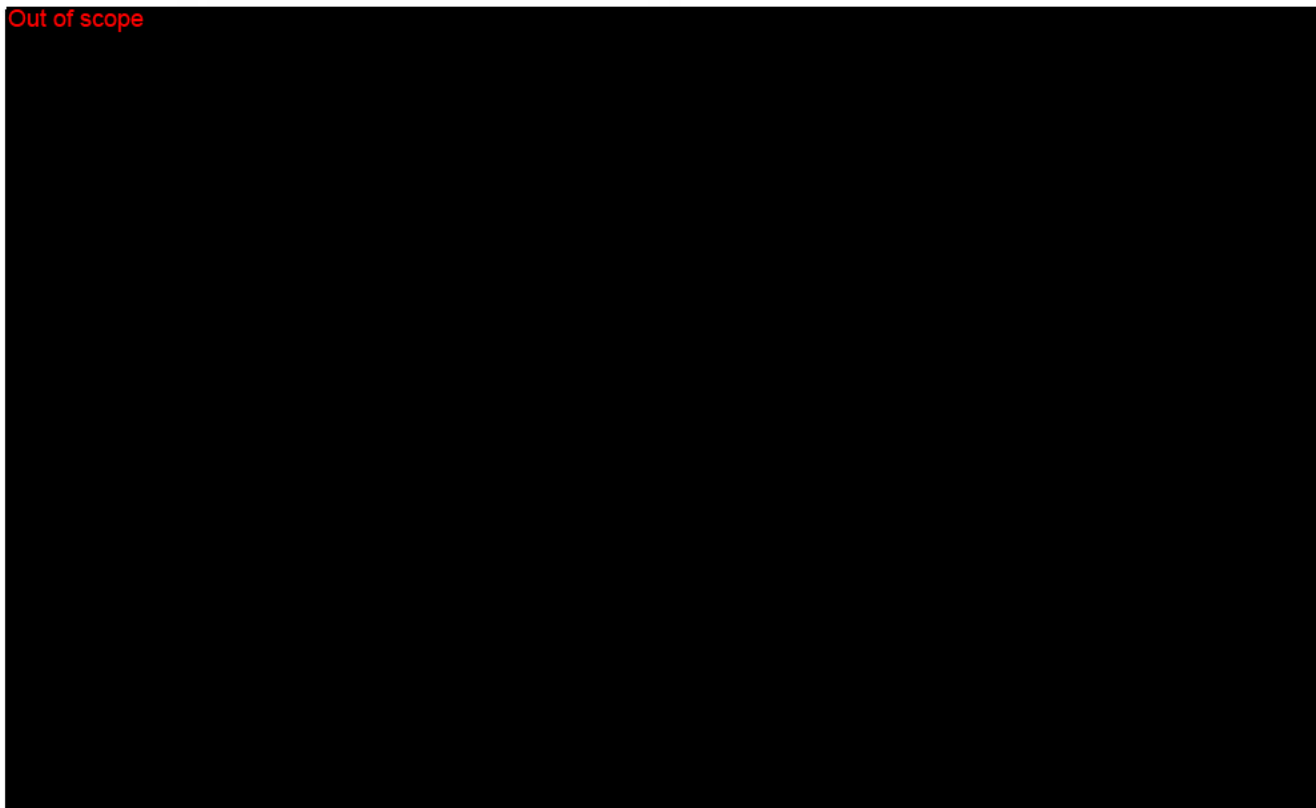
by **Nicola Young** (nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz) on **Tue, 14 Nov 2:05 PM** via **Email**

Requested for : **Nicola Young** (nicola.young@wcc.govt.nz)

TICKET PROPERTIES

Urgency Low	Impact Low	Priority Low	Status Closed
Source Email	Type Service Request	Group EMQ - Parks, Sport & Recreation	Agent Julia Thornton
Business impact --	Impacted locations --	No. of customers impacted --	Major incident type --
Telephone Number --	Common Issues --	Other Line number --	Site Location --
Device Used --	Type of Call --	Category Elected Member Queries	Time call was made/received --
Closure Code --	Resolution --	KB Article Linked/Created --	Sub-Category --
Skip notifications --	Incident address --	Incident location --	Call Type --
Due by Wed, 14 May, 2025 2:05 PM			Created By Margo Ray

Out of scope



From: Margo Ray <Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz (mailto:Margo.Ray@wcc.govt.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 10:16:43 AM
To: Councillor Nicola Young <Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz (mailto:Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz)>
Subject: RE: Palestine graffiti

Kia ora Nicola,
 I'll get the removal team to head down there.

Cheers, Margo

Chief Advisor to James Roberts, COO

From: Councillor Nicola Young <Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz (mailto:Nicola.Young@wcc.govt.nz)>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 November 2023 9:43 am
To: James Roberts <James.Roberts@wcc.govt.nz (mailto:James.Roberts@wcc.govt.nz)>
Subject: Palestine graffiti

Hi James . Apparently, there's a large 'Free Palestine ' sign at Waitangi Park. I've been asked whether it has Council approval (I hope not!) . Assuming it hasn't, could it be removed promptly please? Thank you. Nicola

Nicola Young - by iPhone
 Lambton Ward City Councillor
 M: s7(2)(a)

REQUESTED ITEMS (1)

Elected Members Queries v2

DESCRIPTION

Elected Members Queries v2 (for EMQ Admin Team's use only)

If the customer would like to lodge a query with their councillor, they need to approach their councillor directly who will then decide whether to lodge the request via this EMQ process.

<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/about-the-council/mayor-and-councillors/councillors>

Stage	Service	Summary	Elected Member this ticket is related to?
Requested	Parks, Sport & Recreation	FW: Palestine graffiti	Elected Member - Young

11/20/23, 10:53 AM

wellingtoncitycouncil.freshservice.com/helpdesk/tickets/857770/print

Description	Skip notifications	Incident address	Location
Hi James . Apparently, there's a large 'Free Palestine ' sign at Waitangi Park. I've been asked whether it has Council approval (I hope not!) . Assuming it hasn't, could it be removed promptly please? Thank you. Nicola	false	--	--

Nicola Young - by iPhone
Lambton Ward City Councillor
M: s7(2)(a)

APPROVAL LOGS

COMMENTS

From **Julia Thornton** (julia.thornton@wcc.govt.nz) on **Wed, 15 Nov 4:18 PM** as **Private note**
No response needed.
