

**Councillor Dominic Beck – Cabinet Member for
Transport and Environment**

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15th June 2022

Councillor Joshua Bacon
Elected Member

Via email: Joshua.bacon@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Bacon

Supplementary Question – Council Meeting on 25th May 2022

Further to the supplementary question that you asked at Council on 25th May regarding proactively responding to graffiti, I can confirm that there have been several recent incidents of Z graffiti and Nazi symbols occurring over recent weeks within the Borough that have been reported to the Community Safety team. The Community Safety Team has an internal network of managers of front-line services which facilitates community tension reporting. A message was sent out around this network on 19 May which prompted several reports of offensive graffiti to the Community Safety team by Council staff, that were previously not known about/unreported. When reports are received into the Community Safety team, officers liaise with PC Chris Nicholson (Police hate crime coordinator) who records incidents as hate crime and investigates them. PC Nicholson visits the sites where possible to identify any possible evidence. The reports are passed to Street Cleansing on the day reported for removal.

PC Nicholson stated “that without exception all were removed within hours of being report to us (The Police). I have re-visited some of the sites to check the graffiti has been removed personally”

Extremist graffiti is also reported to the South Yorkshire Counter Terrorism Policing Northeast team.

As a partnership, the Council and South Yorkshire Police have taken action to plan an approach to identifying individuals that may be responsible for the graffiti, including the use of CCTV in some key locations. Investigations are ongoing and appropriate action will be taken against any individuals found to be responsible.

The Street Cleansing team, who sit within Environmental Services, deal with the graffiti removal within specified standards which are 1 day for offensive and 7 days for general. In the Town Centre there has been 19 graffiti Jobs logged since March 2022, 6 of these were related to Z and Nazi symbols (offensive), All these jobs were closed within 24 hours of being logged into the system/workflow, which matches the visits and information supplied by PC Nicholson.

Street cleansing has a dedicated Town Centre team with 6 individuals working 5 days per week Including the weekend. The team litter pick, empty bins, spray, grub and weed and arrange for the sweeper to attend if required out of schedule. Alongside their own duties they are proactive and log many of the specialist cleansing jobs into the relevant teams, this includes graffiti removal.

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Dominic Beck
Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment /Ward Councillor for Wales Ward