

1. Rosie Read:

Question: Given that it is ECC's responsibility to remove graffiti what is the council doing imminently about the graffiti in the quay underpass to restore it to its previous good condition, and when can we expect this to be done?

Response:

The removal of graffiti from Devon County Council (DCC) assets remains the responsibility of DCC the Landowner. DCC informed the City Council in January 2026 that, despite the much-appreciated efforts of ECC, the rise in tagging and general graffiti in Exeter's subways has become so significant that there was no budget to address the issue formatively in Lower Coombe Street, forcing the return to prioritising offensive graffiti only. DCC policy and the risk of damage to DCC assets during removal process, restrict how often and how intensively ECC can undertake cleansing works within the subway. In addition, Graffiti removal as a city-wide function is a discretionary service provided by ECC free of charge to residents, but it operates with very limited capacity. As a result, the service must be prioritised to where it can achieve the greatest benefit and sustained impact for residents.

ECC has attempted to engage further with DCC on shared solutions to reduce surface damage and improve outcomes; however, no meaningful contact has been achieved to date, though ECC will continue to pursue collaborative solutions as and where resource allows.