

Ref: FOI / 5978

25th September 2025

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Costs and Incidents Relating to Removal of Unauthorised Flags

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

For the period from 1 July 2025 to the latest date for which records are held at the time of your search (please state the end date used), please provide:

1. The total recorded spend incurred by the Council in removing unauthorised flags from public land or the highway, broken down (if held) by:

- staff time/recharge rates
- contractor costs
- vehicles/materials
- disposal
- overtime

Nil.

2. The number of incidents/jobs where unauthorised flags were removed, with date and ward or postcode sector for each (no exact addresses required).

Nil.

3. The job/incident category codes and cost centre/recharge codes used for these removals (e.g. fly-posting/illegal signage/unauthorised banner).

Not Applicable.

4. The current schedule of rates (or equivalent) used by the Council/its contractor for removal of illegal signage/flags.

Not Applicable.

5. Any policy/guidance/SOP in force during the period for identifying and removing unauthorised flags, including the legal basis (e.g. Highways Act 1980 s132 / Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regs 2007).

Current planning legislation that may be used to enforce against landowners regarding unauthorised flags is set out in Section 130 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Planning (Control of Advertisement) Regulations (NI) 2015.

Please be advised that the Department for Infrastructure may hold some of the information that you are requesting. Please see the details below:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/contacts/dfi-roads>

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Ellen Cavanagh

Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer