

Ref: FOI / 5922

13th August 2025

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Chewing Gum Removal 2019 - 2024

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

I would like to request the following information regarding chewing gum removal for the financial years 2019/20 to 2023/24 inclusive:

1. Chewing Gum Removal Costs

- a. The total cost incurred by the council for chewing gum removal in each of these years.**

Council does not hold the information requested. Chewing gum removal forms an integral part of Councils public realm washing regime.

2. Area Covered

- a. If recorded, the approximate area cleaned (in square metres) for each year.**

Council does not hold the information requested. Chewing gum removal forms an integral part of Councils public realm washing regime.

3. External Funding

- a. Has the council received any external funding (e.g. from DEFRA or Keep Britain Tidy) specifically for chewing gum removal during this period?**

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From 2019-2023 Gum removal was delivered as part of broader cleansing operations. Council received funding from Keep Britain Tidy for year 23/24.

b. If yes, please provide the amount received and year awarded.

Council received a grant of £12,000 to purchase machinery/carry out gum removal.

If Cost Data Is Not Held Separately:

If your authority does not hold chewing gum removal costs separately from general street cleansing budgets, please confirm:

1. Whether chewing gum removal is carried out at all, and

2. If so, whether it is delivered as part of broader cleansing operations.

Gum removal is delivered as part of broader cleansing operations. Council wash parts of the Public Realm and remove chewing gum as part of this process.

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

Conor Canning
Head of Environment & Building Control