
From Vandalism to Vibrancy

An update from Sheffield BID
February 2025

Since 2015 Sheffield BID has provided a discretionary and free graffiti removal service direct to premises liable for the city centre BID levy.

Since November 2024, we've been addressing the increasing problem of persistent graffiti to establish a level of care and control that discourages more serious issues.

This year-long campaign aims to reduce the visible signs of neglect, improve visitor perception of safety, and preserve the aesthetic appeal and market value of properties.

It demands considerable effort and resources.

Over 190 jobs logged in the last three months alone

'A job' isn't necessarily a single tag – it can take several hours (or days) to remove multiple tags spanning significant areas

Here's just a 'small' sample of the vandalism ...







Many 'hot spots' require urgent attention











Significant damage is being done – even with specialist cleaning, it's not always possible to remove completely from brickwork



A worrying trend is the use of a (as yet) unidentified substance which is burning into glass leaving an 'etched' effect



BUT ... we are making good progress











65% of the vandalism identified on commercial premises has been cleaned up including 5 major hot spots area. However, there is much more to do, especially with the retagging issues currently at 12%

Other partners in the mix: Amey – highway infrastructure; Sheffield City Council– public realm; Local Area Committee – working with Restorative Justice; South Yorkshire Police – four prosecutions in the last 12 months



The cost of covering up is endless!

Other interventions

- “Artists in residence” are creating **street art** projects to replace some of the vandalism.
- We’re working with community street artists to develop a **mentoring** scheme for emerging street artists.



We're keeping tabs on the taggers

- By documenting, analysing and storing all evidence.
- By reporting all incidents via the Council's **business & retail crime portal**.
- **Catch me once, catch me 200 times** – accumulating photos of specific monikers and tracking the cost of the damage done by individuals.

... this includes using Crimestoppers to



69% of the current graffiti identified is thought to be linked to **seven** taggers (although their monikers may be shared).

We are advocating for and support measures that **hold offenders accountable**, including financial restitution for damages.



Framework for delivery

We have:

- A “**hot spot**” watch in place to monitor areas prone to graffiti.
- **Collaboration** with building managers, and facilities management teams at both Universities.

We do:

- Conduct **frequent checks** of prime retagging sites to ensure quick removal and deterrence.
- Engage with all stakeholders to raise awareness about the **impact** of graffiti vandalism.
- Look for solutions that **prevent** graffiti vandalism.

We will:

- Continue our **cleaning efforts** to address and mitigate this major issue blighting the BID area.
- Collaborate with **community artists** to embrace street art, fostering creativity and establishing it as a vibrant and positive element of city centre culture.

We hope:

- Everyone will **support us** in the campaign against graffiti vandalism.
- To foster a **cleaner, safer, more welcoming** environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Sheffield city centre!

We typically refrain from highlighting this aspect of our work due to its negative connotations. However, it is imperative to address it openly because significant efforts are still required to resolve this issue. The current situation is unacceptable, and we are committed to making a change.

Together, let's paint a brighter future!



SHEFFIELD **BID**



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