



# factsheet

Regulatory Services

## **GRAFFITI: THE FACTS**

### **Is Graffiti a Criminal Offence?**

Yes, graffiti is regarded as criminal damage and a prosecution may be brought under section 1 of the criminal act 1971. A person who, without lawful excuse, destroys or damages any property belonging to another, intends to destroy or damage any such property, or is being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged, is guilty of an offence. It can lead to the decline of an area and a lack of respect for the place in which people live, work and play.

### **What is Graffiti?**

Any informal or illegal marks, drawings or paintings that have been deliberately made by a person or persons on any physical element comprising the outdoor environment, with a view to communicating some message or symbol etc. to others.

### **What will happen if I am Caught Defacing Public or Private Property with Graffiti?**

#### ***If the value of criminal damage exceeds £5,000:***

- The maximum custodial penalty for those aged 18 or over is 10 years imprisonment,
- The maximum custodial penalty for those aged 12 – 17 is a detention and training order of up to 24 months



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***If the value of the damage is less than £5,000:***

- The maximum sentence for those aged 18 or over is three months imprisonment or a fine of £2,500
- For those aged 12-17 there is no custodial provision. A range of community sentences are available to the court such as Reparation Orders and the final Warning Scheme.

***If the graffiti offence is minor:***

- A fixed penalty notice of £80 may be issued for minor graffiti offences, to discharge your liability and court proceedings if payment is received within 14 days following the date of notice. This is discounted to £50 for early payment within 10 days.

**Did you Know?**

- It is estimated that graffiti costs the UK over £1 billion per year to clean up.
- The term graffiti is taken from the Greek word graphien, which means to write.

**REPORT AN INCIDENT****ONLINE:** [www.charnwood.gov.uk](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk)**TEL:** 01509 634563**Email:** [cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk)

This information is available in different formats. To access these please phone (01509) 634560.

এ তথ্যাদি অন্যান্য মাধ্যমে পাওয়া যায়। এসব পেতে হলে দয়া করে (01509) 634560 এ নাম্বারে টেলিফোন করুন।

這資料具不同的格式，請致電 (01509) 634560 索取。

आ माहिती जुदी जुदी पद्धतिओमां उपलब्ध छे, ते भेणववा भाटे कृपा करी आ नंबर पर फोन करो (01509) 634560.

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵਖ-ਵਖ ਸਕਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਮਿਲ ਸਕਦੀ ਏ। ਇਹ ਹਾਮਿਲ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ (01509) 634560

