



12 December 2023

John Miller

By email: [fyi-request-24747-1fcc2e08@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24747-1fcc2e08@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe John

I refer to your information request dated 14 November 2023 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your request was for the following:

*“According to news articles, the three activists arrested for the "Everything Room" protest on the 1st of August 2023 have been asked to pay \$15,000 as part of the diversion process. Allegedly, part of this cost is to pay for repairs to walls that the protestors painted on, in order to maintain them in good condition until they were demolished or stripped as part of planned renovations. According to information received from my earlier requests, the demolition/stripping of these walls was planned for the week starting on the 11th of September.*

*I am writing to request the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA). In the time between the protest and the planned demolition/stripping of the walls, was there work done to remove the paint left by protestors? If so, please provide any documents that prove the work was done, and the reasoning for why it was done despite the imminent renovation?”*

Please see below our response to your request.

**1. In the time between the protest and the planned demolition/stripping of the walls, was there work done to remove the paint left by protestors?**

Yes, work was carried out by the University's Property Trades Services team to remove graffiti from the Otago Business School. This took place on 1 August, 9 August, 15 August, and 16 August 2023 to complete the following work:

- Removing graffiti from stair 1 from the lower ground floor to approximately level 5.
- Removing graffiti from the inside of windows of the affected area.
- Overpainting all affected flat wall finishes within level 3.
- Removing graffiti from affected wallpaper within affected areas.

All affected walls were either overpainted or had wallpaper stripped off, including walls that were to be removed as part of the planned renovation works to the Otago Business School.

**a. If so, please provide any documents that prove the work was done, and the reasoning for why it was done despite the imminent renovation?**

Please see the attached Job Ledger for the work completed. Please note that we have withheld the names, initials, and ID numbers of staff from our Property Trades Services team who carried out the work, pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of natural persons).

As the site was still open to the public, staff, and students during operating hours, all graffiti needed to be removed immediately to restore a consistent and appropriate decorative finish within the affected areas. This work had to be done immediately, regardless of any renovations which may have taken place in the future.

In the above cases, we consider that good reasons exist for withholding information, and this is not outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi



Kelsey Kennard  
Official Information and Compliance Coordinator  
Office of the Registrar