From: Lauren Riddle
To: Jeremy Nimmo
Cc: Communications
Subject: Response to LGOIMA request - Communications relating to Ed Sheeran mural
Date: Monday, 19 October 2026 02:43:00 p.m.
Attachments: Internal comms RE ODT Media Query Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised.pdf
DCC Comms - NZME re Ed Sheeran mural graffiti 17 Sept 2026.pdf
DCC Comms response to ODT Tim Scott re Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised.pdf
DCC Comms response to RNZ RE Ed Sheeran mural vandalised.pdf
DCC Comms response to ODT Media Query 16 Sept 2026 Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised.pdf
DCC Comms to Mediaworks Radio enquiry Ed Sheeran mural.pdf
DCC Media round up - 16 September 2026.pdf
Media round up 17 September 2026.pdf

Kia ora Jeremy

I am writing in response to your information request (see email below), received on 18 September seeking "all communications made by Council staff with Melanie Earley and any other RNZ staff regarding the Sheeran mural between 3 September 2026 and 18 September 2026, and any documents/communications produced within the Council regarding the mural between 3 September 2026 and 18 September 2026".

Attached is the email communications held.

I trust this completes your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about howe to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

kā mihi

Lauren

Lauren Riddle

Mana Whakahaere Kairuruku / Governance Support Officer
Governance Group

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** 03 474 3428 | **M** 021 2296292 | **E** lauren.riddle@dcc.govt.nz

Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Ōtepoti - Dunedin City Council

50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Jeremy Nimmo
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2026 09:15
To: Official Information
Cc: melanie.earley@rnz.co.nz
Subject: Re: LGOIMA request

Hi,

I was disturbed to read in the RNZ article:
https://www.rnz.co.nz/life/music/dunedin-s-ed-sheeran-mural-de-faced-amid-tour-backlash
that DCC staff had reportedly described the addition of a pro-human rights statement to a mural depicting Ed Sheeran as "vandalising public street art " after Sheeran publicly sided with child molesters in support of the Gaza Holocaust.

I am requesting all communications made by Council staff with Melanie Earley and any other RNZ staff regarding the Sheeran mural between 3 September 2026 and 18 September 2026, and any documents/communicatiosn produced within the Council regarding the mural between 3 September 2026 and 18 September 2026

Thanks,
Jeremy

From: Chris Morris
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:48
To: Ben Tomsett; Communications
Subject: Fw: RE: Ed Sheeran mural graffiti

Hi Ben,

This is the statement we gave to the ODT yesterday:

> The Dunedin City Council acknowledges the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. Any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, so you're best to seek further comment from them.

If needed, please attribute to a DCC spokesperson.

Just on background, it's also worth noting that while the ODT chose to frame it as a "Dunedin's controversial Ed Sheeran mural" in today's paper, it was also an extremely popular initiative at the time of Ed Sheeran's concerts (we had to put traffic management in place) and it earned Dunedin a fair amount of publicity – which was the intention…

Cheers

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** [redacted] **E** chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Ben Tomsett <ben.tomsett@nzme.co.nz >
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 9:14 a.m.
To: Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz >
Cc: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz >
Subject: Ed Sheeran mural graffiti

Hi DCC comms,

I'm following up on the vandalism of the Ed Sheeran mural in Bath St.

Could the council please comment on:

* Does the council intend to remove the graffiti/red paint and restore the mural? If so, when?

* Is there an estimated cost for the cleanup/restoration, and who will cover that cost?

* Has the vandalism been reported to police?

* Does the council have any broader comment on the incident, given the apparent political message left on the mural?

* Does the council still intend to retain the mural long-term?

A response ASAP would be great if possible.

Cheers,

BEN TOMSETT
Multimedia Journalist

M: [redacted]
E: ben.tomsett@nzme.co.nz





This email and any attachments are strictly confidential and subject to copyright. They may contain privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient please delete the message and notify the sender. You should not read, copy, use, change, alter or disclose this email or its attachments without authorisation. The company and any related or associated companies do not accept any liability in connection with this email and any attachments including in connection with computer viruses, data corruption, delay, interruption, unauthorised access or unauthorised amendment. Any views expressed in this email and any attachments do not necessarily reflect the views of the company or the views of any of our related or associated companies.

Any information contained in this e-mail in relation to an advertising booking are subject to, and should be read in conjunction with, our standard advertising Terms & Conditions

NZME Ltd / NZME Holdings Ltd / NZME Publishing Ltd / NZME Radio Ltd

From: Lauren Riddle
To: Lauren Riddle
Subject: Fw: RE: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised
Date: Monday, 19 October 2026 02:14:46 p.m.

From: Chris Morris
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:49
To: Tim Scott
Cc: Communications
Subject: Fw: RE: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised

Kia ora Tim,

The Dunedin City Council acknowledges the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. Any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, so you're best to seek further comment from them.

If needed, please attribute to a DCC spokesperson.

Cheers,

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | [redacted] | **E** **chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz**
Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Tim Scott <tim.scott@alliedmedia.co.nz >
Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2026 11:54 a.m.
To: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz >

Cc: Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz >
Subject: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised

Hi Chris,

I am writing a story about the vandalization of the Ed Sheeran mural, in Bath St, which was commissioned by the council in 2018.

Please see the following questions below. My deadline is **4pm today.**

1. Is the council aware of the vandalization and does it know when it happened?

2. What does the council make of the mural being vandalised?

3. Is the council disappointed this has happened?

4. Will the council seek to repair/fix the mural?

5. Has the council been in contact with the police on this matter?

Kind regards,

Tim Scott

Business Reporter / Books Editor

p [redacted]

m [redacted]

w odt.co.nz

Background

From: Lauren Riddle
To: Lauren Riddle
Subject: DCC Comms response to RNZ RE: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised
Date: Monday, 19 October 2026 02:20:44 p.m.
Attachments: image001.png
0.png
Outlook-DCC Main P.png
Outlook-DCC Main P.png

From: Melanie Earley
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:47
To: Chris Morris
Subject: Fw: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised

Haha much appreciated!

All the best

Melanie Earley | Senior Journalist
RNZ, PO Box 2209, Auckland, New Zealand, 1140
Mobile: [redacted]
www.rnz.co.nz

From: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz >
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:18 AM
To: Melanie Earley <Melanie.Earley@rnz.co.nz >
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised

No idea sorry!

But we won't hold the Auckland thing against you

There's more details on the Street Art Trust here - https://www.dunedinstreetart.co.nz/

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** [redacted] **E** **chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz**

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

If this message is not intended for you please delete it and notify us immediately; you are warned that any further use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this material by you is prohibited..

From: Melanie Earley <Melanie.Earley@rnz.co.nz >
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 10:15 a.m.
To: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz >
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised

Thanks Chris apols I'm actually a filthy Aucklander and don't know, but who owns the building?

Melanie Earley | Senior Journalist

RNZ, PO Box 2209, Auckland, New Zealand, 1140

Mobile: 021 483 719

www.rnz.co.nz

From: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2026 10:12 AM
To: Melanie Earley <Melanie.Earley@rnz.co.nz>; Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - RE: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised

Kia ora Melanie,

This is the statement we've provided to other media:

> *The Dunedin City Council acknowledges the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. Any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, so you're best to seek further comment from them.*
>
> *If needed, please attribute to a DCC spokesperson.*

Just on background, it's also worth noting that while the ODT chose to frame it as a "Dunedin's controversial Ed Sheeran mural" in coverage this morning, it was also an extremely popular initiative at the time of Ed Sheeran's concerts (we had to put traffic management in place) and it earned Dunedin a fair amount of publicity – which was the intention when commissioned…

Cheers,

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** [redacted] | **E** chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

If this message is not intended for you please delete it and notify us immediately; you are warned that any further use, dissemination, distribution or reproduction of this material by you is prohibited..

From: Melanie Earley <Melanie.Earley@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 10:10 a.m.
To: Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Ed Sheeran mural vandalised

Kia ora team,

I was wondering if council were aware of the Ed Sheeran mural on Bath St being vandalised?

Are council in charge of having it fixed?

Is there any comment you could please make on it?

Has there been vandalism associated with the mural before?

Thanks in advance please get back to me as soon as possible,

Melanie Earley | Senior Journalist

RNZ, PO Box 2209, Auckland, New Zealand, 1140

Mobile: [redacted]

www.rnz.co.nz

Emails sent by Radio New Zealand Limited (RNZ) or any related entity, including any attachments, may be confidential, protected by copyright and/or subject to privilege. If you receive an email from RNZ in error, please inform the sender immediately, delete it from your system and do not use, copy or disclose any of the information in that email for any purpose. Emails to/from RNZ may undergo email filtering and virus scanning, including by third party contractors. However,

From: Lauren Riddle
To: Lauren Riddle
Subject: Fw: FW: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised
Date: Monday, 19 October 2026 02:17:02 p.m.

From: Chris Morris
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:47
To: Council 2025-2028 (Elected Members); Lee Vandervis4
Cc: Executive Leadership Team (ELT); Communications; CSA Leadership Team
Subject: Fw: FW: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised

Kia ora koutou,

Please see below our response to ODT questions about graffiti on the Ed Sheeran mural, which will be sent to them shortly.

Cheers,

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** [redacted] **E** chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

DCC response

Kia ora Tim,

The Dunedin City Council acknowledges the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. Any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, so you're best to seek further

comment from them.

If needed, please attribute to a DCC spokesperson.

Cheers,

Chris

From: Tim Scott <tim.scott@alliedmedia.co.nz >
Sent: Wednesday, 16 September 2026 11:54 a.m.
To: Chris Morris <Chris.Morris@dcc.govt.nz >
Cc: Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz >
Subject: ODT Media Query | Ed Sheeran Mural Vandalised

Hi Chris,

I am writing a story about the vandalization of the Ed Sheeran mural, in Bath St, which was commissioned by the council in 2018.

Please see the following questions below. My deadline is **4pm today.**

1. Is the council aware of the vandalization and does it know when it happened?
2. What does the council make of the mural being vandalised?
3. Is the council disappointed this has happened?
4. Will the council seek to repair/fix the mural?
5. Has the council been in contact with the police on this matter?

Kind regards,

Tim Scott

Business Reporter / Books Editor

p [redacted]

m [redacted]

w odt.co.nz

Background



From:	Lauren Riddle
To:	Lauren Riddle
Subject:	DCC Comms to Mediaworks Radio enquiry: Ed Sheeran mural
Date:	Monday, 19 October 2026 02:25:39 p.m.

From: Chris Morris
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:48
To: Lauren Paddy
Cc: Communications
Subject: Fw: RE: Mediaworks Radio enquiry: Ed Sheeran mural

Kia ora Lauren,

This is the statement we've provided to other media:

> *The Dunedin City Council acknowledges the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. Any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, so you're best to seek further comment from them.*
>
> *If needed, please attribute to a DCC spokesperson.*

Just on background, it's also worth noting that while the ODT chose to frame it as a "Dunedin's controversial Ed Sheeran mural" in coverage this morning, it was also an extremely popular initiative at the time of Ed Sheeran's concerts (we had to put traffic management in place) and it earned Dunedin a fair amount of publicity – which was the intention when commissioned…

Cheers,

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR

COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | [redacted] **E** chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From: Lauren Paddy <laurenpaddy@mediaworks.co.nz >
Sent: Thursday, 17 September 2026 11:03 a.m.
To: Communications <comms@dcc.govt.nz >
Subject: Mediaworks Radio enquiry: Ed Sheeran mural

Morning team,

Lauren from MediaWorks Radio here.

I'm wondering if you can confirm whether the Ed Sheeran mural the Council commissioned has been tagged (as is being reported), and if the Council can provide comment on this?

Please let me know if any questions or if you need more information.

Thanks,

LAUREN PADDY | **(SHE/HER)**
RADIO REPORTER
MEDIAWORKS RADIO NEWS **PHONE** [redacted]

Attention:

The information contained in this message and/or attachments is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender, and delete the material from any system and destroy any copies.

Thank you.

From:	Lauren Riddle
To:	Lauren Riddle
Subject:	DCC Media round up - 16 September 2026
Date:	Monday, 19 October 2026 02:22:56 p.m.

From: Chris Morris
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2026 15:47
To: Council 2025-2028 (Elected Members)
Cc: Community Board - Strath Taieri 2025-2028; Community Board - Mosgiel Taieri 2025-2028; Community Board - Otago Peninsula 2025-2028; Community Board - Saddle Hill 2025-2028; Community Board - Waikouaiti Coast 2025-2028; Community Board - West Harbour 2025-2028
Subject: Fw: Media round up

Kia ora koutou,

Here is today's media round up.

- **Ed Sheeran mural graffiti** – In response to ODT questions, we acknowledged the strong public sentiment surrounding Ed Sheeran at present, but we never condone the vandalism of our public street artworks. We said any plans to remove the graffiti would be a decision for the building owner in discussion with the Street Art Trust, and referred further questions to them.

Have a good evening.

Cheers,

Chris

Chris Morris

SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** [redacted] | **E** chris.morris@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

New Zealand

www.dunedin.govt.nz