

64387 Steps beside Covenanters' Memorial, Grassmarket

For the period from 1 January 2007 to the date of this request, please provide the following recorded information:

Accidents and injuries:

Records of reported accidents or incidents involving people slipping, tripping, stumbling or falling on or immediately beside these steps, including:

- the date of each incident;
- the nature of the incident and any injury reported;
- whether medical or emergency assistance was required; and
- any action taken by the Council following the incident.

I do not require the names or identifying details of any individuals.

[These steps were not constructed until the end of 2008/beginning of 2009. Records from this period are no longer available. Our earliest records held are from 2017.](#)

[Based on the available records, we only have three reports relating to the steps/location in question. Please refer to the following attached 'Enquiries' - 30702829, 1902190, 2199870.](#)

[Third party personal information has been redacted from the documents provided in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.](#)

Complaints and warnings:

Records of complaints, concerns, hazard reports or warnings received by the Council concerning:

- the safety or visibility of the steps;
- people tripping or falling;
- the change in level;
- lighting or visual contrast;
- the absence or adequacy of markings, handrails or barriers; and
- accessibility for disabled people or those with impaired mobility or vision.

Please include the date, substance and outcome of each report or complaint, with personal information redacted as necessary.

[Please refer to A1 above.](#)

Public-liability claims:

Records of public-liability claims, intimations of claims or demands for compensation arising from accidents on or immediately beside these steps, including:

- the date and general nature of each incident;
- the injury or loss alleged;

- whether the claim was accepted, rejected, settled or remains open; and
- the amount paid in settlement, where applicable.

Again, I do not require the identities of claimants.

No compensation claims have been received for the steps in question to date.

Inspections and risk assessments:

Copies of inspections, risk assessments, safety assessments, accessibility assessments, audits or reviews relating to these steps, including any recommendations for remedial work.

Please also provide records showing whether the steps have been considered against relevant design, accessibility or safety guidance.

The steps are considered to be part of a streetscape and would be inspected in line with the attached Risk Based Approach for any surface defects.

There are no records of assessments or reviews held by our Road Safety or Transport Contracts and Design services, or any recommendations for remedial work, since the steps were constructed.

Design, accessibility and safety guidance from 2008/09 is no longer held.

Maintenance and alterations:

Records of maintenance, repair, modification or other work carried out on the steps, together with any proposals or recommendations to:

- alter or remove them;
- install a handrail or barrier;
- improve their visibility or contrast;
- add warning markings or signage;
- improve lighting; or
- otherwise reduce the risk of trips and falls.

There are no records held of any maintenance or alterations being made to the steps.

Design and construction:

Available drawings, specifications, plans, approvals, design assessments and completion records relating to the creation or installation of the steps, including:

- when they were designed and constructed;
- the body or contractor responsible for their design;
- any recorded explanation for the change in level;
- any safety or accessibility assessment undertaken during the design process; and
- the standards or guidance against which the design was assessed.

The steps were constructed in late 2008/ beginning of 2009. The only document we have identified in relation to this project is published at:

[public realm - capital streets project - grassmarker - tender acceptance and contractor appointment.pdf](#)

Responsibility for the location:

Records identifying the Council department, service, contractor or other body responsible for the ownership, inspection, maintenance and safety management of the steps.

Please search all relevant Council records, including those held by public-realm, roads, parks, heritage, health and safety, customer complaints, insurance, claims, legal and project-design teams, as well as information held on the Council's behalf by contractors or agents.

There is not one team or department that is responsible for all matters listed and which apply to the steps in question. The steps form part of a streetscape and are included in safety inspections in line with Risk Based Approach (Road Asset Safety Inspection Strategy_27 Jun 2022 - Attached) for any surface defects.

In terms of the original design of the steps, this would have been the Transport Contracts and Design service.