

Streetlighting Columns: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why are some streetlighting columns being removed?

The Council carries out regular structural safety inspections of streetlighting columns to ensure they remain safe for the public.

Where inspections identify a column that is severely structurally weakened, it must be removed to protect public safety.

Why was a lighting column removed when it looked fine?

Structural deterioration is often not visible from the outside. Specialist inspections can identify issues within the column structure that would not be apparent during a normal visual inspection.

Where a column is assessed as posing a safety risk, it will be removed even if it appears to be in good condition externally.

Will I be told when a column is going to be removed?

The Council is issuing notices on affected columns to explain the reason for removal.

It is not practical to contact all nearby residents individually, but information will be provided wherever possible.

How can I find out more about a removed streetlight?

The Council has developed an online [map](#) showing information about streetlighting columns that have been removed or identified for replacement.

The map provides live information and, where available, estimated replacement timescales.

Will every removed column be replaced?

Yes, but due to limited resources, it is not always possible to install a replacement immediately after a dangerous column has been removed.

When a column is removed for safety reasons, the Council assesses replacement priorities using a risk-based approach. This helps ensure that available resources are focused on locations where lighting is most important for public safety.

Why has a column near my home not yet been replaced?

The Council must prioritise replacements based on risk and safety considerations across the whole network.

This means some locations may be replaced sooner than others depending on factors such as

- Whether a single column or multiple columns are affected.
- Whether the location is close to a road junction, pedestrian crossing, or other key traffic feature.
- The number of pedestrians and road users who use the area.
- The overall impact on public safety.

The aim is to reduce risk for the greatest number of residents and road users.

Are older columns automatically unsafe?

No.

Streetlighting columns have a theoretical service life, but many remain structurally sound beyond that age.

Regular inspections help determine the actual condition of each column so that decisions are based on evidence rather than age alone.

Why are inspections being carried out?

The inspection programme helps the Council manage the streetlighting network safely and responsibly. It provides up-to-date condition information and allows decisions on maintenance, removal, and replacement to be based on risk and asset condition.

Will more columns be removed in the future?

As the streetlighting network ages, more columns will require inspection and assessment. Some may need to be removed where safety concerns are identified.

The Council will continue to prioritise public safety and use inspection data to plan future maintenance and replacement programmes.

How many streetlighting columns does Aberdeenshire Council maintain?

The Council maintains almost 47,000 streetlighting columns and associated lighting infrastructure across Aberdeenshire.

Who should I contact about a streetlight concern?

Residents can report streetlighting faults or concerns through the Council's normal reporting channels. Providing the column number or exact location will help officers investigate the issue more quickly.