

11 April 2024

File Ref: IRC-6515

Robert Whittaker  
[fyi-request-26026-01298074@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26026-01298074@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Whittaker

Thank you for your email of 7 March 2024 to Wellington City Council (the Council) requesting the following information:

- *I have heard a rumour that the term "Golden Mile" was first ascribed to Courtney Place and Manners Street due to the persistent smell of urine on those two streets, and it was only later that the term was reclaimed by the business community and the City Council as a positive framing of the area.*

*Is the Council able to confirm this rumour or supply any documentation that demonstrates an alternative origin for the term?*

Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA).

The name "Golden Mile" is derived from being the financial and economic centre of Wellington, as it connects four interconnected streets, each with its distinct character; these streets are Lambton Quay, Willis Street, Manners Street and Courtenay Place. The Golden Mile project is part of the Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) three-year programme.

The Golden Mile plays a vital role in the success of Wellington's transport system, regional economy and sense of place. Transecting central Wellington, it provides the core spine for the city's bus network and enables thousands of people to access employment, do business, shop, dine and access to other central city destinations each day. In 2021 when initial research was done when developing the proposal for LGWM, it was found that around 70,000 people travel on Lambton Quay and Willis Street each day. On each street up to 50 percent of people are moving on foot and a similar amount travelling on buses. Fewer than 10 percent of people move through Lambton Quay in cars. While fewer people move through Manners Street and Courtenay Place each day (about 40,000), these roads are also heavily used by people on buses (about 50 to 70 percent) and people walking (about 30 percent).

The Golden Mile is steeped in built and cultural heritage. It is both a primary destination for people accessing work, shopping or entertainment in Wellington, as well as a principal access corridor for people moving through the city to destinations beyond the Wellington Central Business District.

I can confirm that there is no connection between the name and the alleged persistent scent of urine.

While there is no specific document discussing the naming of the area, there is significant information online about the Golden Mile and the LGWM project, which can be found [here](#). For this reason, I must refuse your request for any documentation pursuant to section 17(e) of the LGOIMA as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

You have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(1) of the LGOIMA, to request an investigation and review of the Council's decision to refuse information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you require further information, please contact [assurance@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:assurance@wcc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M.B.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Danika Morris-Brown  
*Senior Advisor Official Information  
Complaints & Information Assurance  
Wellington City Council*