

From: Rebecca Murray
To: ["Hamish McNeilly"](#)
Subject: RE: Lgoima request
Date: Thursday, 23 July 2020 10:57:00 a.m.
Attachments: [Email information for Stuff LGOIMA.pdf](#)

Good morning Hamish

I refer to your request below and my colleague Jenny Lapham's email of 1 July 2020 advising of our decision to release the information to you, please accept our apology for the delay in providing the information.

Please find attached the information you requested, I advise that the details of the complainants have been redacted pursuant to sections 7(2)(a) and 7(2)(c)(i) of the LGOIMA in order to protect the privacy of persons and to ensure the supply of similar information in the future.

As we have declined to provide some information, you are advised that you have the right to seek a review of the decision by the Office of the Ombudsman.

Regards

Rebecca Murray

**GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICER
CIVIC**

P 03 477 4000 | **DD** 03 474 3487 | **E** rebecca.murray@dcc.govt.nz

Dunedin City Council, 50 The Octagon, Dunedin

PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054

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From: Hamish McNeilly <hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2020 10:44 a.m.

To: lgoima <lgoima@dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Lgoima request

Morena,

I'm after the release of the complaints concerning names of mountain bike tracks on Signal Hill, and any emails from council staff on that matter.

Kind regards,

Hamish McNeilly

Reporter

E hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz | **M** 027 458 4605

8 Stafford St, Dunedin, 9016, New Zealand



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Jenny Lapham

From: Monique Elleboode
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 09:58 a.m.
To: Robert West
Subject: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Bonjour Robert
Is this something your team can have a look at? Or best to another team? Would you know?
Thanks for taking the time to look at this.
I look forward to your feedback on this.
Many thanks
Monique

From: Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tēnei

Nāku noa, nā

Monique

Monique Elleboode
Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin
Taituarā Matua ki te Koromatua o Ōtepoti

Tau waea: 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | Īmēra: monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.
To: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

I live between [REDACTED] and have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Nāku, noa nā

[REDACTED]

Jenny Lapham

From: Robert West
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 12:46 p.m.
To: kristybooth [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Hello Kristy – I tried calling you this morning, and have left a bit of a rambling message on your phone. I have received this complaint from the mayors office (as per below) and have removed any reference to the complainant as I do not have their permission at this stage to disclose their name.

It relates to the naming of some of the tracks on Signal Hill, and I know that it is something that we have discussed as part of our regular meetings in the past (due to previous complaints). Most recently from the meeting of 15/8/19 (excerpt from meeting minutes) -

Track naming MBO committee feedback

Feedback taken to the committee. There will be a council naming policy in near future. Unsure of the timeline. Current names - MBO feel it should be left as is. Naming policy won't look at retrospective names. Possibly needs a bit more thought to frame it positively.

I will ask Jess to put this down on the next MBO/DCC meeting agenda, but we will be pushing now to agree a timeline with MBO for renaming of track names where there is concern about them. The Policy team at DCC have been taking the lead in the development of a DCC Naming Policy for consideration by Council. I will be following up with them to see where they are at with that. However, that should not stop us from moving forward with a piece of work to look at the names, and I believe that this can be done in a way that is a win:win for both MBO and DCC.

Please do give me a call if you want to discuss, otherwise we will discuss further at the next meeting

Congratulations also on the increased funding from DCC for MBO as agreed at yesterday's Annual plan deliberations

Kind regards

Robert West
GROUP MANAGER
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES



P 03 477 4000 | DD 03 474 3695 | M 021 538826 | E robert.west@dcc.govt.nz
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www.dunedin.govt.nz



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.
To:

Cc: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear XXX

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tēnei

Nāku noa, nā

Monique

Monique Elleboode

Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin

Taituarā Matua ki te Koromatua o Ōtepoti

Tau waea: 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | Īmēra: monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz

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Aotearoa

www.dunedin.govt.nz

From:

Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.

To: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

I have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Nāku, noa nā

From: [Robert West](#)
To: [Sandy Graham](#)
Subject: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names
Date: Friday, 29 May 2020 12:59:00 p.m.
Attachments: [Image001.jpg](#)
[Image002.jpg](#)

FYI

From: Robert West
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 12:59 p.m.
T [REDACTED]
Cc: Aaron Hawkins <Aaron.Hawkins@dcc.govt.nz>; Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Kia ora [REDACTED] Mayor Hawkins' office has forwarded onto me your email of Thursday 28 May regarding concerns about the naming of tracks on the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park.

I completely agree with you that the current names of some of the tracks are offensive, and thank you for raising this with us.

The matter is currently an agenda item on the regular Mountain Bike Otago (MBO) – DCC Parks and Recreation meetings that we hold. I hope that you will be reassured to hear that we are currently working with MBO to develop a joint work plan for Signal Hill to ensure MBO-DCC alignment, and the re-naming current tracks and the process for naming of new tracks is part of that work.

This may take a period of time to resolve, but you can expect to see these name changes in the near future.

Please do get back in touch with me if you have any further concerns or questions relating to this matter.

Kind regards

Robert West
GROUP MANAGER
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

[REDACTED]

P 03 4774000 | **DD** 03 474 3695 | **M** 021 538826 | **E** robert.west@DCC.govt.nz
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Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Monique Elleboode <Monique.Elleboode@dcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 9:57 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office to [REDACTED] RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Dear [REDACTED]

On behalf of Mayor Hawkins, thank you for your email.

Ka nui tenei

Naku noa, na

Monique

Monique Elleboode

Executive Assistant to the Mayor of Dunedin

Taituara Matua ki te Koromatua o Otepoti

Tau waea: 03 474 3855; 027 39 88 707 | **Imera:** monique.elleboode@dcc.govt.nz

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Aotearoa

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From [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:15 p.m.

To: Mayor <mayor@oa.dcc.govt.nz>

Subject: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park

Dear Aaron

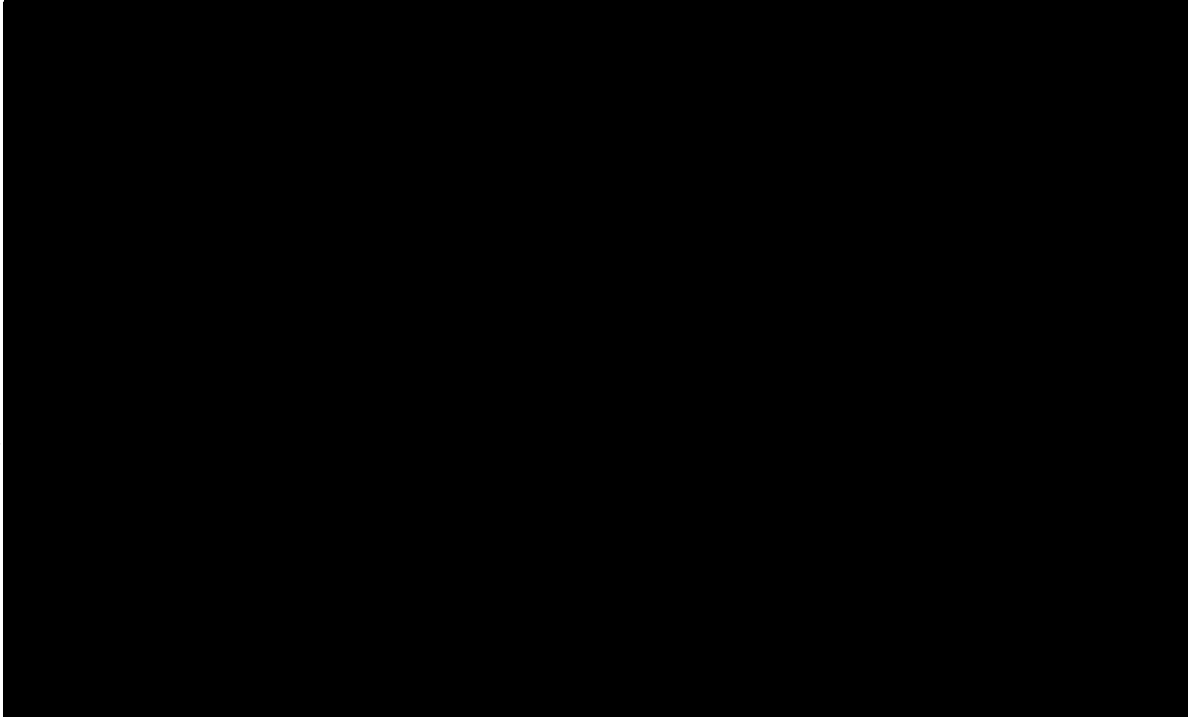
I live between [REDACTED] and have a great interest in the Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park. I am an avid cyclist, and think this is a wonderful place to ride. However, the tracks have names that shock me, shock my friends (male and female alike) and which I don't think are acceptable for a public park. I have brought this to the attention of DCC in the past, but I see there has been no change.

There are three very offensively-named tracks: Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Mountain biking communities tend to be very masculinist, but this is a step too far.

I hope you will take a look at this and find a way to change to these offensive names.

Many thanks!

Naku, noa na



Jenny Lapham

From: Robert West
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 01:26 p.m.
To: Kristy Booth
Subject: RE: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

I am free after 3pm if you want to call. Also happy for you to call next week – which ever is best for you – no panic

R

From: Kristy Booth <kristybooth [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 1:04 p.m.
To: Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: FW: Acknowledgement from Mayor Hawkins' Office - RE: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Thanks Robert,

I'm working out in Oceangrove no cell reception, I can call you after 3 if you like.

We have discussed these tracks in a past meeting with P&R and rational for names that was accepted and no names were changed.

This complaint reads exactly the same as the previous so probably the same person.

MBO is meeting next week, I'll table the track names are changed.

Yes, very exciting to hear of additional funds.

Regards Kristy

On Fri, 29 May 2020, 12:46 pm Robert West, <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hello Kristy – I tried calling you this morning, and have left a bit of a rambling message on your phone. I have received this complaint from the mayors office (as per below) and have removed any reference to the complainant as I do not have their permission at this stage to disclose their name.

It relates to the naming of some of the tracks on Signal Hill, and I know that it is something that we have discussed as part of our regular meetings in the past (due to previous complaints). Most recently from the meeting of 15/8/19 (excerpt from meeting minutes) -

Track naming MBO committee feedback

Feedback taken to the committee. There will be a council naming policy in near future. Unsure of the timeline. Current names - MBO feel it should be left as is. Naming policy won't look at retrospective names. Possibly needs a bit more thought to frame it positively.

I will ask Jess to put this down on the next MBO/DCC meeting agenda, but we will be pushing now to agree a timeline with MBO for renaming of track names where there is concern about them. The Policy team at DCC have been taking the lead in the development of a DCC Naming Policy for consideration by Council. I will be following up with them to see where they are at with that. However, that should not stop us from moving forward with a piece of work to look at the names, and I believe that this can be done in a way that is a win:win for both MBO and DCC.

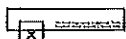
Please do give me a call if you want to discuss, otherwise we will discuss further at the next meeting

Congratulations also on the increased funding from DCC for MBO as agreed at yesterday's Annual plan deliberations

Kind regards

Robert West

**GROUP MANAGER
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES**



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Jenny Lapham

From: Robert West
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2020 02:47 p.m.
To: Kristy Booth
Subject: Signal Hill Mountain Bike Park/track names

Kristy – many thanks to you positive response over the weekend about name changes of three tracks on Signal Hill, and for the proactive removal of signage.

As discussed, I am happy with the following proposed track names –

Ginger Cougar to Orange Roughy
Mistress to Defrag

However, concerned about –

The Missus to Mrs M. we are concerned about gender based names and potential to misconstrue. I look forward to an alternative name proposal from you.

We are happy to agree some simple guidelines with MBO for future naming of tracks, and I have asked Jess and John to put together a draft for discussion with MBO. As the builder of the tracks, I am happy that MBO put forward names to us in future and that we agree with them prior to agreeing final naming.

Thanks

Robert

From: Robert West
To: [REDACTED] Claire Swift
Subject: RE: Track name changes on Signal Hill
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Dear [REDACTED] – many thanks for your email regarding Signal Hill track naming. We have had a positive response from them in relation to renaming 3 of the tracks. They were proactive over the weekend by removing all signage on these tracks, and we are talking about re-naming them. We will be agreeing guidelines for naming of new tracks with MBO in the near future to avoid future issues.

Hope that this reassures you and thanks for raising it with me

Robert West
GROUP MANAGER
PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 10:04 a.m.
To: Robert West <Robert.West@dcc.govt.nz>; Claire Swift <Claire.Swift@dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Track name changes on Signal Hill

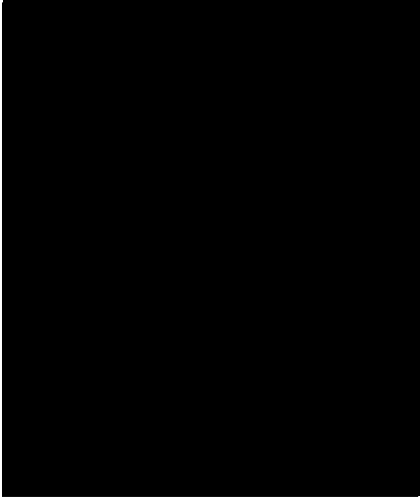
Hi Claire and Robert

Claire, I think I've mentioned in that past that I rather didn't like some of the track names on Signal Hill. I'm not surprised that someone has complained and that you have required the names be changed. I am totally in support of you here. I've said so on the club's Facebook page and I'm rather shocked by the response there, both to me and to Council's decision, and indeed to the complaint.

I hope the club doesn't come back with new names that somehow play on the controversy.

Regards,





Jenny Lapham

From: Andrea Jones
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 02:29 p.m.
To: Robert West
Cc: Communications
Subject: naming of Signal Hill tracks

Hi Rob

Final version below. I've got a meeting now – will send the response, attributed to you, to the ODT after that. Thanks for your help.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO. We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Cheers

Andrea Jones
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
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Jenny Lapham

From: Andrea Jones
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 04:08 p.m.
To: Hamish McNeilly; Communications
Subject: Signal Hill mountain bike track names

Hi Hamish

Here's the response we provided to the ODT.

The DCC has received two complaints about the names of three Signal Hill mountain bike tracks - Ginger Cougar, The Missus and The Mistress. Staff agreed these names were inappropriate and raised this with Mountain Bike Otago. We are pleased MBO has agreed to make the changes and understand some of the signs have already been removed. Track signage costs have always been met by MBO. We are working with the group on guidelines for the future naming of tracks.

Kind regards

Andrea Jones
COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER

From: Hamish McNeilly <hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 3:42 p.m.
To: Communications <comms@oa.dcc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fwd:

Afternoon,

I rang Robert West but I couldn't get him on the phone, I was after comment on the below picture.

My questions were:

1. Is it true someone has complained over these names?
2. Did the DCC ask Mountain Biking Otago to change the names, due to this complaint?
3. Has the council determined that these names are offensive?
4. Does the council stand by its decision?
5. Anything else you would like to add?

Hamish McNeilly
Reporter

E hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz | M 027 458 4605
8 Stafford St, Dunedin, 9016, New Zealand

stuff



Neighbourly



THE PRESS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Hamish McNeilly <hamish.mcNeilly@fairfaxmedia.co.nz>

Date: Wed, 3 Jun 2020 at 15:39

Subject:

To: <hamish.mcneilly@stuff.co.nz>

It's a sad day, due to a complaint to the DCC I have been approached by MBO to rename "The Mrs" and "The Mistress ". To my knowledge there is another track involved.

With discussions on renaming the tracks Renaming is being agreed on with the approval of the DCC for The Mistress, however a proposed "Mrs M" (the inspiration behind building the track) has been rejected by the DCC.

So therefore I'm putting it out there for suggestions.

Cheers

(You'll note that I am reserved in my choice of words)

