



20-E-0253 / DOC-6298351

20 May 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request which was transferred to the Department of Conservation on 29 April 2020. You requested the following:

- 1. Are department of conservation or any contractors on behalf of the department undertaking Tahr control via helicopter or on foot during the Covid 19 lock down?*
- 2. Are Waro operators still operating during the Covid 19 lockdown?*

The Department of Conservation's priority during lock down was to support New Zealand in stopping the spread of COVID-19 and saving lives. No hunting was permitted on public conservation land to help ensure the safety of everyone.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. Are department of conservation or any contractors on behalf of the department undertaking Tahr control via helicopter or on foot during the Covid 19 lock down?*

No tahr control, ground-based or aerial, was carried out by staff or contractors during the COVID-19 lockdown.

- 2. Are Waro operators still operating during the Covid 19 lockdown?*

This response refers to public conservation land only. Wild animal recovery operations, like all other hunting, were not permitted on public conservation land during the COVID -19 lockdown.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents will be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely

Jo Macpherson
Director – Operation Issues and Programmes