

11 November 2022

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 13 October 2022 in which you asked:

“... what happens to hut intentions books that have been filled up by users. I know they are replaced and the full one is removed from the hut, however it is not clear what happens to the books thereafter. Is the information in the books saved by DOC or are the books disposed of?”

The Department does not have a national policy or guideline on what should happen to hut intentions books when they are full. Each district office determines what happens to the books in their district when they are full.

As intentions books are public records, the books should not be disposed of. What generally happens is that the full books are removed from the hut when the new book is in place. That is because old books left in the hut in the past have sometimes been vandalised or destroyed (e.g. used as fuel to start a fire) by hut users.

The full books are kept in the district office if there is room. If there is no space to store them, the old books are sent to be archived by Archives New Zealand.

I can understand that it would be frustrating to arrive at a hut hoping to learn from those who have been there before you only to find a new book with few entries. It may well seem like the luck of the draw, and probably is. Hopefully, from the response above, you can understand what the Department does with full books and why.

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

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Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

Tim Bamford
Director, Heritage and Visitors (acting)
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai