

2 August 2023

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your emails of 4 July 2023 and 5 July 2023 requesting information relating to the Kiwi Guardians programme. Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 ('OIA').

You requested the following information in your email of 4 July 2023:

Would DOC consider transferring the Kiwi Guardians scheme and IP and partner with a new Charitable Trust to see if this programme could be continued in community hands?

If this seems worth looking into, would it be possible to meet with someone relevant at DOC to discuss or could I at least see the financial proposal for the discontinuation (how much does the programme cost to run etc.) as well as the statistics for medals claimed at each site over time?

On 5 July 2023, you followed up with the below:

Which is why I was asking about whether a Charitable Trust could take on this work - but I would need to understand the financial position and the scale of resources required and whether local community groups could undertake this work.

Our response to your requests is listed below.

The Department is not in a position to transfer the Kiwi Guardians programme operations and intellectual property to another organisation. It would require internal resourcing that we are not able to provide.

There would also be ongoing resourcing required to enable the programme to continue to operate on Public Conservation Land, such as permissions and site maintenance. The Department is unable to prioritise investing further resources into the programme over our other priority biodiversity work.

As a result, we have not determined the necessary requirements for a Charitable Trust to deliver the Toyota Kiwi Guardians scheme.

The Department did not create a specific financial proposal for the discontinuation of the scheme. As such, and pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, we are unable to provide you with this specific document, as it does not exist. However, we can advise that annual costs to



run the Toyota Kiwi Guardians programme are approximately \$500,000. This includes medal production and distribution, the cost of site maintenance, marketing of the programme, and staff time. Costs fluctuate depending on the number of medal claims.

There are more than 110 TKG adventure sites dotted throughout Aotearoa. Over the past seven years, more than 136,000 nature-based adventures and actions have been completed. The Kiwi Guardians site at Riccarton Bush has been the most popular walk.

Please find attached, as Appendix One, data on medals claimed at each site from December 2018 to February 2023.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	Undated	TKG medal claim summary per site - March 2018 to February 2023	Released in full

With reference to section 18(f) of the OIA, we are unable to provide you with the number of medals claimed at each site from the start of TKG to December 2018. Due to a system-change, we cannot provide you this information without substantial collation.

We are currently processing medals claimed from February 2023 to July 2023.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Fiona Weightman
Director, Strategic Communications & Engagement
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai