

3 August 2023

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 07 July 2023, in which you asked for:

1. *All feral cats killed by DOC for the last 5 years - just the overall total year by year.*
2. *“All the cats killed by DOC's Dean Nelson and team over the last 5 years, total year by year.”*
3. *“How many possums killed by DOC for the last 5 years - just the overall total year by year.”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

DOC does kill pests such as possums and feral cats to protect indigenous biodiversity. DOC uses a range of tools to kill pests including traps, shooting and toxins but does not maintain national numbers of pests killed.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *All feral cats killed by DOC for the last 5 years - just the overall total year by year.*

DOC does not maintain a national total of feral cats killed across all operations.

2. *All the cats killed by DOC's Dean Nelson and team over the last 5 years, total year by year.*

The annual totals of cats killed in traps as part of the Tasman predator control project are listed below:

Year	Feral cats killed
2018/19	134



2019/20	147
2020/21	136
2021/22	171
2022/23	113

3. *How many possums killed by DOC for the last 5 years - just the overall total year by year.*

DOC does not maintain a national total of possums killed across all operations.

I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information you seek. You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai