

24 August 2023

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Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 30 July 2023, in which you asked for:

- The data of how many Kiwi DOC has recorded being killed by pests or humans each year for the past five years
- the locations of the deaths around the country
- the causes for the deaths e.g. possums, dogs, cars etc.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982. The information you have asked for is provided in a table format, broken down into annual periods. The exception is 2022-2023 which we have extended to 11th August so you have the most recent information.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	11 August 2023	Table of recorded kiwi deaths, locations and causes from 30 th July 2018 to 11 August 2023	Released in full

The Department has a 'Kiwi Death Database' which is a national repository of kiwi deaths reported as part of our monitoring programmes and deaths reported to us. Many kiwi deaths resulting from predator and human activity are not reported to the Department, and many more are never discovered.

Kiwi deaths resulting from vehicles are the most reported as they are more visible to the public. As attacks by dogs, ferrets, stoats and cats generally occur away from human activity and observation it is difficult to get a true picture. As a result, the database does not include all kiwi deaths, and there may be further records held by groups and other agencies outside of the Department.



There are key DOC-led projects where kiwi are closely monitored to better understand and inform effective landscape scale predator control regimes. These monitored populations are within the Tongariro, South Westland and Te Anau Districts. As a result of this monitoring these Districts have reported a higher number of predation events (other than dogs) than in other Districts. The South Westland kiwi projects re-commenced detailed monitoring from July 2020.

Kiwi die from a variety of causes, including predator attacks, vehicle strike, being caught in traps, and natural causes such as misadventure, diseases, and health issues. In many cases the cause of death is obvious and in other situations the cause is suspected. Key indicators are the location of the body, bite marks, etc. The cause of some deaths remain unknown as bodies are too decomposed when found.

There are currently seven reported kiwi deaths that are under investigation. We have not included these as the cause of these deaths are still being determined and may lead to prosecutions.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to the Office of the Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

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Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted name]

Eamonn Whitham
Acting-Director Operations Support and Planning Unit
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai