


13 October 2023

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 15 September 2023, in which you asked for:

- 1. All reports, data and meeting minutes concerning the outcome of the first aerial poisoning of the Wet Jacket area in Fiordland, and concerning the justification, planning and outcome of the second aerial poisoning of this area.*
- 2. All reports on the management and monitoring of wildlife in the Landsborough Valley area from 2020 onwards.*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. All reports, data and meeting minutes concerning the outcome of the first aerial poisoning of the Wet Jacket area in Fiordland, and concerning the justification, planning and outcome of the second aerial poisoning of this area.*

As you may be aware, in 2017, DOC started monitoring southern Fiordland tokoeka kiwi at Shy Lake, between Wet Jacket Arm and Breaksea Sound. The goal was to gather data before and after an aerial 1080 operation to ensure we are controlling predators in the most effective way to save the most kiwi across large, remote areas of Fiordland.

Over three years, none of the 34 tokoeka kiwi chicks being monitored at Shy Lake survived to adulthood - most were victims of stoats.

In 2020, the Shy Lake area was treated with 1080 for the first time and predator numbers were heavily reduced. Following the operation, there was a clear improvement in the number of chicks making it to safe weight.

After the first aerial application, chick survival increased by 20% in the first two years. Then, as large numbers of predators re-invaded the area, the survival rate of kiwi began to fall again. Based on expert technical advice, another operation took place on 14 and 15 June 2023.

Tracking tunnel monitoring immediately after the operation showed 0% TTI (Tracking Tunnel Index) for rodents and 0% for mustelids. Rodent monitoring on 4 September 2023 again showed 0% TTI. Outcome monitoring results will be available in mid-2024, after the kiwi breeding season.



I am providing you with seven documents within scope of your request, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Information under section 6(d), as the making available of that information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person,
- Names and personal contact details of individuals, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- Information under section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

2. All reports on the management and monitoring of wildlife in the Landsborough Valley area from 2020 onwards.

I am providing you with 20 documents within scope of your request, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Names and personal contact details of individuals, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people;
- Information under section 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- Information under section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
<i>Wet Jacket</i>			
1	23 Nov 2020	Pestlink report – Wet Jacket 2020 operation	Released in part
2	Jul 2021	Save Our Iconic Kiwi – Fiordland 2020-2021 Annual Report	Released in part
3	Jun 2022	Save Our Iconic Kiwi – Fiordland 2021-22 Annual Report	Released in part
4	12 Apr 2023	Email: Request for NPCP TAG advice for Wet Jacket operation	Released in part
5	5 Apr 2023	Email attachment	Released in part
6	May 2023	Aerial 1080 operational plan	Released in part
7	Jun 2023	Save Our Iconic Kiwi – Fiordland 2020-2021 Annual Report	Released in part
<i>Landsborough Valley</i>			
8	4 Apr 2020	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
9	18 May 2020	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
10	11 Aug 2020	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
11	19 Nov 2020	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
12	7 Mar 2021	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
13	24 May 2021	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
14	16 Sep 2021	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
15	4 Nov 2021	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
16	14 Dec 2021	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
17	20 Jan 2022	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
18	23 Feb 2022	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
19	11 May 2022	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
20	17 Jan 2023	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
21	23 Feb 2023	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
22	18 Aug 2023	Mohua Protection, Landsborough Valley	Released in part
23	15 Jun 2020	Pestlink report – Landsborough Valley 2019 operation	Released in part
24	Mar 2022	Project Report 2021 Monitoring Landsborough Valley bird counts	Released in part
25	Feb 2022	Landsborough Tahr Ground Control 2022	Released in part
26	Feb 2023	Landsborough Tahr Ground Control 2023	Released in part
27	Feb 2023	Landsborough Feb 2023	Released in part