

15 April 2024

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Tēnā koe ^{s9(2)}_(a)

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 18 March 2024, in which you asked for documents, communications, or records pertaining to the number of hunting permits DOC is and has been issuing, with a particular focus on the numbers issued since the change of government. The requested has been adjust after your discussion with one of our staff on the 27th of March 2024.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. Numbers of hunting licenses (Open permits) issued per annum between 2008-2024.

Please see the table below on Page 3 for the data you requested.

The department built an online self-service hunting permit application process in 2010 and it went live in December of that year. Hunting permits up to this point were paper-based and this data is no longer available, and therefore this part of your request must be refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act (OIA) as the information no longer exists.

Please note, this pre-December 2010 hunting permit data was not required to be kept by the department.

2. Any documents or communications pertaining to any potential changes in policy around hunting licenses since the change in government.

There have been no changes in policy with the change in government around hunting permits. We are upgrading the existing hunting permits system to make it more efficient and user friendly. This work was planned prior to the new government coming into effect. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

3. The types of hunting licenses that are issued.

We issue five types of recreational hunting permits. They are:

- Open Area hunting permits
- Restricted Area hunting permits
- Small game hunting permits
- Game bird permits
- Possum permits

For further information please see:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/hunting/permits-and-licences/hunting-permit/>

4. Reasoning and explanation, if applicable, for any jumps or declines in the number of hunting licenses issued.

You will see from the data some slow increase and decrease over time. We have not undertaken any research to understand why that is the case and therefore must refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information does not exist.

If you would like to discuss this response or the information we have provided, please contact Mark Beardsley, Heritage & Visitors Unit by email to mbeardsley@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

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Catherine Wilson
Director Heritage and Visitors
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

The Number of Open Hunting Permits Issued - December 2010 to March 2024

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
NZ Hunters	558	43616	52159	52087	56507	57776	52990	47580	46402	45504	45568	45448	43411	44337	13583	647526
Overseas Hunters	3	293	432	471	570	517	659	638	806	878	420	86	270	797	374	7214
Unknown			1	1						1		1				4
Total	561	43909	52592	52559	57077	58293	53649	48218	47208	46383	45988	45535	43681	45134	13957	654744

The Number of Individual Hunting Permit Holders - December 2010 to March 2024

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
NZ Hunters	501	31689	34011	34487	35503	36129	35886	36118	35060	35075	34242	34159	32506	33049	12221	460636
Overseas Hunters	3	239	342	346	420	425	534	548	700	758	380	83	230	614	333	5955
Unknown			1	1						1		1				4
Total	504	31928	34354	34834	35923	36554	36420	36666	35760	35834	34622	34243	32736	33663	12554	466595