

18 June 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 16 May 2024, in which you asked for:

All documents, reports, email correspondence relating to the operation to kill the stoat, including any photos or video footage of the stoat that may exist that was captured as part of the operation.

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

On 29 May 2024 you refined your request to exclude email correspondence up until 31 March 2024 and to reduce documentation to the Incident Management Team documents only and a representative sample of images of identified stoat images.

On 5 June 2024, following discussions with Bridget Railton, Senior Media and Communications Advisor, you further refined your request to seeking only the following information: Any images or video of the stoat investigating traps during the incursion and any correspondence/documents where staff discuss the stoat investigating but not entering the traps. Bridget and you also discussed potentially including any high-level governance status updates which would give you an overview of the incursion response as it rolled out, and the scat reports.

On 14 June 2024 we extended the time available to respond to your request to 21 June, due to the consultation necessary.

We have not been able to readily locate any correspondence where staff discuss the stoat investigating but not entering the traps. However, we can provide you with several contacts of team members who would be happy to provide commentary on this aspect of the incursion for you. [REDACTED]

The following documents fall within scope of your request and are being released to you.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	Summary created June 2024 for reports dated: 30 Aug 2022 – 20 July 2023	Summary document of Incident Status Reports for Te Kākahu-o-Tamatea/Chalky Island pest incursion.	Incident Status Reports summarised in one document rather than releasing each document in full. Reason: Most of these documents were out of scope (multiple incursions combined in one document) and would impair efficient administration to collate. (as per section 16(2)(a) of the Official Information Act)
2	Multiple dates	Collection of mustelid dog surveillance reports, including scat information	Released in part.
3	Multiple dates	Collection of representative stoat images	Released selection as requested.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. In making this decision, I have considered 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



Aaron Fleming MNZM
Regional Operations Director, Southern South Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai