

06 March 2026

Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-6062

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 05 February 2026, in which you asked for the following information:

- 1. The number of Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has received for disturbing or killing wildlife or their eggs since May 14 2025 to the 5th of February 2026.*
- 2. The number of Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has approved for disturbing or killing wildlife or their eggs since May 14 2025 to the 5th of February 2026.*
- 3. The number of harmed or killed protected animals that have occurred under these issued permits, if on record.*
- 4. Copies of all issued Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has approved for disturbing or killing wildlife or their eggs.*

This is in relation to new sections 53A to 53C inserted in the Wildlife Act in 2025, so to clarify, I'm looking to grasp how many authorisation applications DOC has received and approved that sought to utilise the change in law allowing for protected wildlife to be killed incidentally to an otherwise lawful activity being carried out.

On 13 February 2026 you clarified your request to be for information relating to the 2025 amendments to the Wildlife Act 1953 (the Act) for the incidental killing of wildlife. You also indicated that, if parts three and four of your request could not be fulfilled by DOC, that you would be happy with the following (noting this has been summarised for clarity):

- 5. A list of companies that have been issued Wildlife Act authorities approving incidental killing of wildlife between 14 May 2025 to 5 February 2026, including regions and whether these authorities relate to land or marine species.*

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

Your requests and our responses are listed below:

- 1. The number of Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has received for the incidental killing of wildlife since May 14 2025 to the 5th of February 2026.*

Between 14 May 2025 and 5 February 2026, DOC received approximately 67 Wildlife Act authority applications which included conditions for incidental killing of wildlife. This is inclusive of pending and withdrawn applications.

- 2. The number of Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has approved for the incidental killing of wildlife since May 14 2025 to the 5th of February 2026.*

As at 23 February 2026, DOC has approved approximately 47 Wildlife Act authorities received between 14 May 2025 and 5 February 2026 which authorise incidental killing of wildlife.

Please note that this figure does not include any applications submitted prior to 14 May 2025 which had start dates of 14 May 2025 onwards.

- 3. The number of harmed or killed protected animals that have occurred under these issued permits, if on record.*

Following changes to section 53 of the Act, permit holders for authorisations that include clauses authorising incidental killing of wildlife are required to submit a report by 30 June each year for the duration of their authorisation. In the case of authorisations relating to lizard salvage, reports must be submitted within 6 months of the salvage being completed.

As these changes to section 53 of the Act only came into effect on 14 May 2025, this information is not yet held by DOC. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by DOC and we do not believe it to be held by another Minister or agency.

- 4. Copies of all issued Wildlife Act authority permit applications DOC has approved for incidentally killing wildlife.*

On 13 February 2026 we invited you to refine part four of your request and subsequently provided a link to the blank authority application form to assist you; however, we note you did not provide any conclusive refinement. We are therefore refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(f) of the OIA as providing copies of the 47 authorities applications identified in response to part two of your request would require substantial collation. This would remove staff from core duties for a substantial period and, as a result we anticipate that the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served.

- 5. A list of companies that have been issued Wildlife Act authorities approving incidental killing of wildlife between 14 May 2025 to 5 February 2026, including regions and whether these authorities relate to land or marine species.*

Please refer to **Appendix One**, which provides you with a list of authorities which have been issued between 14 May 2025 to 5 February 2026 that authorise the incidental killing of wildlife. This is inclusive of holder names, start and expiry date, and region of operation of the authorities.

Notes on data

- The data has been compiled from applications received on or after 14 May 2025. Applications with start dates on or after 14 May 2025 which were submitted prior to the commencement of the Wildlife (Authorisations) Amendment Act 2025 have therefore not been included.
- In alignment with your request to provide as much information without requiring third-party consultation, this information has been aligned with the active concessions data which is

publicly available on DOC's website at [Active concessions](#), and therefore names of individual holders have been anonymised for privacy.

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 OIA.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Anita Murrell', written in a cursive style.

Anita Murrell Principal Advisor Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai