Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

19-E-0511 / DOC 6047704

26 August 2019

[redacted]

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for your Official Information Act ("OIA") request to the Department of Conservation dated 29 July 2019. You requested the following:

> *Under the Official Information Act, please supply the data for any mammalian pests monitored including mice, rats and stoats, as well as beech seed conditions (whenever most recently monitored), in, or representing, any Fiordland locations that you are planning to aerially poison in 2019.*

For ease of reference, I have addressed each part of your query separately.

Beech seed sampling results

The Department uses seed sampling results to predict the likelihood of large seed crops (mast) which trigger rodent and stoat plagues. Predator plagues pose a serious threat to our endangered birds such as mōhua, kākā, kea, whio and kiwi along with other at risk species like bats and land snails. Early detection of mast seeding enables the Department to plan and implement effective predator control programmes.

We are providing you with a copy of the document *2019 summary of beech, rimu and tussock sampling to indicate potential for rodent irruptions*, which contains results of beech seed sampling across New Zealand, including results from the Fiordland region. This is set out as Document 1 in the attached document schedule.

I have withheld the name of a staff member from this document under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 in order to protect their privacy. In making this decision, I have taken into account the public interest considerations set out in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Rodent and stoat tracking data

We are providing you with summaries of the rat, mouse and stoat monitoring data we have collected from tracking tunnels within the Fiordland regions where aerial pest control operations are scheduled to take place this year. These summaries are set out as Documents 2, 3 and 4, respectively, in the attached document schedule. These summaries contain the most recent monitoring data that was available to us on 29 July 2019 (which is the date on which we received your request).

Conservation House - *Whare Kaupapa Atawhai*
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143
Telephone (04) 471 0726, Fax (04) 381 3057

Please note that these summaries set out the *raw data* we have collected from tracking tunnels within the Fiordland region, and do not contain any analysis or interpretation of that raw data.

If you have any questions regarding the raw data we have provided to you in this response, we invite you to make an appointment in person with one of our science advisors. Please contact us via replies@doc.govt.nz to organise this appointment. If you wish to request any other monitoring data that falls outside the scope of this OIA request, you can do so via the following webpage on the Department's website: https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/request-monitoring-data/.

Monitoring data relating to other mammalian pests

We are extending the 20 working day period to respond to this part of your request, as allowed under section 15A(1) of the Official Information Act. We require an additional 15 working days to respond to this part of your request. We will send you a response no later than 16 September 2019, or earlier if possible.

The extension of time is necessary as the consultations required to make a decision on the request mean that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how you can make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely

Amber Bill
Director Threats,
For Director-General

Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	1 April 2019	2019 summary of beech, rimu and tussock sampling to indicate potential for rodent irruptions	Released in part
2	29 July 2019	Summary of rat monitoring data	Released in full
3	29 July 2019	Summary of mouse monitoring data	Released in full
4	29 July 2019	Summary of stoat monitoring data	Released in full