

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

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Ref: OIAD-9258

15 July 2026

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 07 June 2026, in which you asked for:

"Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I would like to request copies of the following information held by the Department of Conservation regarding its operational partnership and funding agreements with Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) on Rakiura/Stewart Island:

- 1. Progress & Milestone Reports: Copies of all quarterly reports, milestone updates, or operational progress reviews submitted by ZIP to DOC from January 2024 to the current date relating to the Rakiura "1080 to Zero" trial and the Pukunui Predator Control Area.*
- 2. Internal Evaluations: Any internal DOC memos, evaluations, or emails assessing these specific ZIP progress reports or verifying whether operational milestones were met.*
- 3. The Reporting Schedule: A copy of the specific sections of the DOC/ZIP contract or funding agreement that outlines the required frequency, templates, and criteria for these progress reports.*

I prefer to receive this information electronically in a scannable PDF or text format delivered by return email please."

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

On 30 June 2026 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 15 July 2026 due to the consultation necessary.

Predator Free Rakiura is a nationally and globally significant eradication project. It will be the world's largest inhabited-island predator eradication project. This project aims to eradicate six species including three species of rat, possums, hedgehogs and feral cats from the Rakiura mainland as well as all islands and rock stacks surrounding Rakiura.

A successful eradication requires a collaborative approach that covers a range of work including operational planning, biosecurity, research, community engagement and communications, and Ngāi Tahu expectations and aspirations. Operational design work is being undertaken by Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP).

Predator Free Rakiura and the Pukunui Predator Control Investment Agreements were not executed until 2025. It should also be noted that the reporting requirements applicable to these initiatives are specified within the Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) Partnership Agreement.

Prior to 2025, DOC held an agreement with Te Puka Rakiura Trust, which led the development of the conceptual Predator Free Rakiura Implementation Plan. This conceptual plan identified ZIP as the preferred organisation for undertaking the operational design work and confirmed its role as a core delivery partner for Predator Free Rakiura.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. Progress & Milestone Reports: Copies of all quarterly reports, milestone updates, or operational progress reviews submitted by ZIP to DOC from January 2024 to the current date relating to the Rakiura "1080 to Zero" trial and the Pukunui Predator Control Area.

As mentioned above, the Partnership Agreement with ZIP was signed in April 2025, DOC has since received three quarterly performance reports. The performance report is prepared in accordance with the criteria outlined in the Partnership Agreement and the deliverables are measured against an Annual Plan. The performance report includes overall progress, future priorities, milestones status and comments and financial performance.

For this part of your question, I am sharing with you Predator Free Rakiura quarterly feasibility reports for the below dates:

Item 1: September 2025

Item 2: December 2025

Item 3: March 2026

The Pukunui Predator Control agreement only had a term of seven months, hence there was no quarterly performance reports. DOC deemed an end of investment agreement report sufficient for the purposes of this agreement. Please find attached with this response letter Item 4: a summary report for Pukunui Operation 2025.

2. Internal Evaluations: Any internal DOC memos, evaluations, or emails assessing these specific ZIP progress reports or verifying whether operational milestones were met.

For this part of your question, I am sharing with you milestone assurance forms for Predator Free Rakiura feasibility for the below dates:

Item 5: September 2025

Item 6: December 2025

Item 7: March 2026

A milestone assurance form is an assessment of a project's current performance against its funding agreement/ annual plan to recommend (if applicable) the release, decline, or deferral of the next proposed payment. There are three milestone assurances done to date for Predator Free Rakiura Feasibility based on three quarterly performance reports.

3. The Reporting Schedule: A copy of the specific sections of the DOC/ZIP contract or funding agreement that outlines the required frequency, templates, and criteria for these progress reports.

Clause 6.8 of Part A of the ZIP partnership agreement outlines the following reporting requirements. The ZIP partnership agreement allows a focus on visibility of investment and outcomes such as strategic annual planning, reporting requirements, and data management and sharing. I am copying Clause 6.8 of Part A of the ZIP partnership agreement below:

Clause 6.8: Reporting:

- (a) For each Financial Year, ZIP will provide the Predator Free 2050 Programme Office at DOC ("PF2050 Programme Office"), the ZIP Board and the SLO with timely and accurate Performance Reports in accordance with the timeframe state in the relevant Annual Plan.*
- (b) ZIP will provide a quarterly report for the quarters ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December by the last Business Day of the following month.*
- (c) Each Performance Report must meet the requirements of DOC, however, DOC will work with ZIP to streamline reporting so that it can fit both needs of DOC and the ZIP Board. Each Performance Report is expected to include:*
 - (i) Commentary on work progress (activities and expected outputs) compared with the content of the relevant Annual Plan;*
 - (ii) The amounts of expenditure incurred during the relevant timeframe and the life-to-date against activities specified in the relevant Annual Plan, as compared with budget;*
 - (iii) A financial forecast for the remainder of the Financial Year;*
 - (iv) The amount of co-funding contributing to the agreed Annual Plan;*
 - (v) Commentary on any health and safety matters that may have arisen during the Financial Year concerned, including the status of any recommended corrective actions.*
 - (vi) Commentary on an other relevant issues identified, in the course of implementing an Annual Plan, that might detrimentally affect the partnership purpose or the reputation of either party.*
 - (vii) On reasonable requests from DOC, ZIP will provide additional information on the delivery and/ or financial performance as may be necessary for public accountability of funds.*
- (d) ZIP will provide an End of Investment Report within 3 months of the end of the term of each Investment Agreement.*
- (e) The End of Investment Agreement Report must include the following information:*

- (i) An analysis of how the funding has enabled ZIP to achieve the key outcomes of the Investment Agreement;*
- (ii) How the funding has achieved outcomes that align with the PF2050 Strategy and Implementation Plan;*
- (iii) Summary of expenditure over the course of the Investment Agreement; and*
- (iv) Any other information that is reasonably requested by DOC in writing from ZIP.*

Official information within the scope of your request

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed as Items 1 to 7 in the attached document schedule, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment, and
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information

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 Biodiversity National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	September 2025	Predator Free Rakiura quarterly feasibility report	Released in part
2	December 2025	Predator Free Rakiura quarterly feasibility report	Released in part
3	March 2026	Predator Free Rakiura quarterly feasibility report	Released in part
4	2025	Summary report for Pukunui Operation 2025	Released in part
5	September 2025	Milestone assurance form for PF Rakiura feasibility	Released in part
6	December 2025	Milestone assurance form for PF Rakiura feasibility	Released in part
7	March 2026	Milestone assurance form for PF Rakiura feasibility	Released in part