

3 July 2026

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai |
Conservation House
18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011
PO Box 10420, Wellington 6140
info@doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-9260

Tēnā koe

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

“1. Please provide all information the DOC holds from September 2025 directed to, received from, or including mention of our Clutha District Council, including external and internal correspondence with individual Council Members, Otago Regional Council, OSPRI, and any other external or internal parties, any correspondence at all that includes mention of the Blue Mountains, West Otago District or Tapanui.

2. Please provide all information held by DOC during 2025 and 2026 relating to the use or possible use of 1080 in the Blue Mountains, including but not limited to: All correspondence with Clutha District Council, Otago Regional Council, OSPRI, individual members of these groups, and any other external parties; Internal correspondence, emails, memoranda, and briefing material; Reports, assessments, advice, recommendations, and analyses; Records of meetings, notes, minutes, or file notes relating to the proposal; Risk-benefit assessments and any consideration of impacts on water users, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders; Any documents relating to consultation, engagement, or communication concerning the proposed operation.”

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

DOC had consulted with Clutha District Council in advance of the operation under the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) regulatory framework and in relation to water supply protection, consistent with requirements for approved vertebrate toxic agents.

Please see below a short summary of the consultation documents with Clutha District Council attached with this response:

29 September 2025	DOC contacted CDC Help Desk	Asked who the best contact for this discussion was.
29 September 2025	Email from DOC was sent to the contact person for CDC and helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz	Informed of proposed operation, specified that that take is 1500m from boundary, but we are sowing the headwaters of Whisky Gully.
20 October 2025	Email from DOC was sent to the contact person for CDC and helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz	Told CDC he was doing a Public Health Application. Asked if CDC had any feedback on earlier proposal.
24 December 2025	Email from DOC was sent to the contact person for CDC and helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz	Notification to key stakeholders that November rodent results were low so we were postponing the Feb 2026 operation. We will do possum monitoring in Autumn 2026 and update after that. If it goes ahead, new operation date is from 20 th May
21 April 2026	Email from DOC was sent to the contact person for CDC and helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz	Notification of possum monitoring results from March and that operation will proceed. New start date is prefeed from 7 th May.
28 April 2026	Email from DOC was sent to the contact person for CDC and helpdesk@cluthadc.govt.nz	Notification factsheet for operation planned for May 2026
8 May 2026	Email from CDC to NPCP Southland	Confirmed they received notification.

DOC has also consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area prior to undertaking the predator control operation in Blue Mountains. This involved discussing the operational plan, listening to any concerns and considering ways to mitigate them. Adjoining landowners and other stakeholders were notified and there was a public notice in the local newspaper/s. There were warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation. We are monitoring the numbers of possums and stoats using cameras, and rats using tracking tunnels. We will also monitor mohua numbers to measure how successful we were at reducing predation. DOC will contact iwi, hapū, and stakeholders about the results of the operation. We also aim to share insights about the outcomes for native species over time. In addition to this, DOC informed Otago Regional Council of the operation, as required under the Resource Management Act.

DOC did not correspond with OSPRI about this operation, as it has no relevance to their TB vector control programme.

I am sharing with you the following key documents related to your request:

- Mohua monitoring in the Blue Mountains (Southland) November 2025.
- Fact sheet explaining operational details and a map of the treatment area.
- DOC Permission Application for Blue Mountains NPCP 2025.
- Invercargill Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Letter Performance Std 145 Aerial 2025-2027.
- Invercargill Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Amendment Letter Aerial 1080 2026.
- Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Amendment Letter 2 Aerial 1080, 2026.
- Blue Mountains VTA Permission 2025-067-SOU.
- Email trail of consultation with the council and consultation summary with other key stakeholders.
- Public Notice issued by DOC.

In regard to the remainder of your request, it would require substantial research and collation to collate, assess, redact, and prepare all information requested. Specifically, all information mentioning the Blue Mountains, West Otago District, or Tapanui since September 2025, or regarding 1080 usage in the Blue Mountains since the beginning of 2026. I must therefore refuse your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. However, recognising the public interest in the matter, I am releasing to you the documents referenced above.

Official information within the scope of your request

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed as Items 1 to 9 in the attached Document schedule, subject to information being withheld due to being out of scope and/or being under the following section of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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	Document description	Decision
1	Mohua monitoring in the Blue Mountains (Southland) November 2025	Released in Part
2	NPCP Notification Factsheet Blue Mountains	Released in Part
3	DOC Permission Application for Blue Mountains NPCP 2025	Released in Part
4	Invercargill Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Letter Performance Std 145 Aerial 2025-2027	Released in Part
5	Invercargill Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Amendment Letter_1080_Aerial_2026	Released in Part
6	Blue Mountains DOC Permission Approval Amendment Letter 2_1080_Aerial_2026	Released in Part
7	Blue Mountains VTA Permission 2025-067-SOU	Released in Part
8	Email trail of consultation with the council and Consultation summary with other key stakeholders.	Released in Part
9	Public Notice issued by DOC	Released in full