



26 July 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 28 June 2022 in which you asked for:

*All plans and reports you have on kea monitoring using radio transmitters, from within the last 2 years (June 2020 to June 2022), in all areas.*

*This **excludes** any information you will already be supplying me for the Arthurs Pass National Park.*

*This **includes** plans and reports regarding changes to the monitoring equipment that is attached to the kea. (At a meeting on 24/5/22 of the Arthur's Pass Association a DoC representative stated the equipment has been downsized to a tail transmitter.)*

I am providing you with the document *Research Plan: Kea risk mitigation and monitoring for Arthur's Pass west and central Westland during 2022 DOC & OSPRI aerial 1080 operations*, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Names of individuals, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- Names of individuals, under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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 which outweigh the grounds for withholding.

The Department is currently in the process of preparing a report on a trial of GPS trackers on kea in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. I will provide you with a copy of this once it is complete.

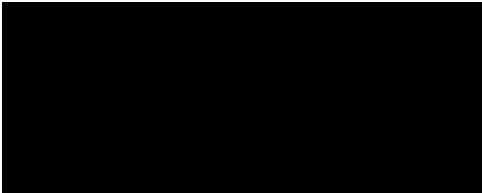


Your email refers to the 24 May 2022 meeting of the Arthur's Pass Association, at which a DOC staff member advised that tail transmitters were being used to monitor the birds in the Arthur's Pass mitigation project. However, this was incorrect information provided in error. Tail transmitters were initially considered for the project, but DOC decided to use longer-life backpack units instead, which are more reliable.

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 enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman  
Director Operations Issues and Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	March 2022	Research Plan: Kea risk mitigation and monitoring for Arthur's Pass west and central Westland during 2022 DOC & OSPRI aerial 1080 operations	Released in part