

11 October 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 16 September 2024, in which you asked for:

*“A total of costs incurred to date for lease termination and related costs with KAH over the Chateau Tongariro. Please provide a breakdown of those costs by:*

- *Outside legal advice (including the names of independent law firms/lawyers the department is using)*
- *Departmental cost*
- *Crown law and other related departments*
- *Contractor/consultant work including reports and other documents (please provide cost per related report)*
- *Any other category which is significant*

*Please also provide a total spend on Chateau maintenance, including, but not limited to, related costs such as security, repair work, and any contributions for shared services such as waste water systems (since March 2023).”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act). Our responses are listed below. Please note that the professional legal privilege is maintained in respect of all legal advice:

***A total of costs incurred to date for lease termination and related costs with KAH over the Chateau Tongariro:***

- 1. Outside legal advice (including the names of independent law firms/lawyers the department is using)***

The Department has not engaged any external law firm to provide legal advice on the lease termination with Kah New Zealand Limited (KAH). This aspect of your request is therefore declined under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act - as the information requested does not exist.

**2. *Departmental cost***

The Department does not maintain records of internal costs in respect of end of lease matters with KAH. For context staff time is not differentiated or tracked based on involvement in Chateau Tongariro end of lease affairs. Department staff support this work as and when needed. This aspect of your request is therefore declined under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act - as the information requested does not exist.

**3. *Crown Law and other related departments***

Crown Law is the only Government agency the Department has incurred any cost with, totalling \$67,723.70 excl GST as of 17 September 2024.

**4. *Contractor/consultant work including reports and other documents (please provide cost per related report)***

We are unable to provide a breakdown of contractor and consultant costs (including reports and other documents relating to end of lease matters with KAH) as our records do not track costs incurred at the granular level requested.

The Department can however confirm the following costs between March 2023 and September 2024 relating to the Chateau Tongariro:

- Contractor costs: \$152,731 for contractor personnel working on Chateau Tongariro matters.
- Consultants: \$488,429 accounting for consultant expertise engaged to provide advice on condition assessment, building services, assets, wastewater, insurance and the expression of interest process.

**5. *A total spend on Chateau maintenance, including, but not limited to, related costs such as security, repair work, and any contributions for shared services such as waste water systems (since March 2023).***

The Department's total costs to operate and maintain the Chateau between March 2023 and September 2024 are \$2.53 million. This accounts for costs associated with a variety of matters including security, compliance and health and safety.

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) may be published on the Department's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Julie Chuor, Project Lead by email to [jchuor@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jchuor@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



CJ Juby  
Director, Business Services  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*