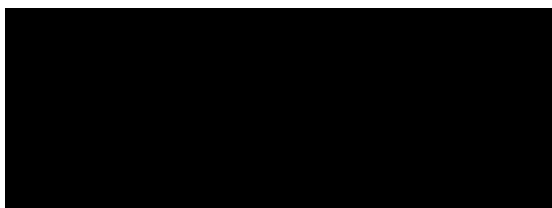


5 March 2025

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 28 January 2025, in which you asked for:

“any reports (memos etc) between the Minister and you relating to [Stewardship land], since October.

Also any correspondence with the Minister about this, and his office.”

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

On 26 February 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request due to the consultation necessary.

Three documents have been identified as falling within the scope of your request:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	5 December 2024	Briefing: Stewardship Land: timeline for decisions and Ngāi Tahu Agreement	Released in part
2	5 December 2024	Attachment B - Agreement - Stewardship Land Reclassification Western South Island, Te Tai Poutini.	Released in part
3	5 December 2024	Attachment C - Deed of Grant - Stewardship Land Reclassification Western South Island, Te Tai Poutini.	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- Personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.
- Advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- Free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.
- Advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege.

- Confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

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.

[REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

Ewan Delany
Director Treaty Negotiations and Land
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai