

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-5021

17 April 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 13 March 2025, in which you asked about Predator Free Rakiura's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

On 8 April 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 17 April 2025 due to the consultation necessary.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. Full copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for a Predator-Free Rakiura that was signed in 2019? With details of all parties to this agreement

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	13 July 2019	Memorandum of Understanding – Predator Free Rakiura Project	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect 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 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.

2. How did public consultation take place in order to reach this agreement? Provide copies of all minutes of meetings, emails, documentation?

No public consultation took place. MOU's are not legally binding and there is no requirement for public consultation. The purpose of developing the MOU was to formalise commitment from each organisation to the vision, to agree on principles and to establish ways of working together.

3. Who was invited to the public consultation? How was the Rakiura / Bluff wider communities, landowners, residents, ratepayers involved?

Not applicable (see above).

4. What documents were prepared for any / all public consultation. Provide full copies of all documentation.

Not applicable (see above).

5. What information was provided to the community prior to signing the Memorandum of Understanding?

Other than regular updates through the Stewart Island News, no specific information was provided to the community in relation to the MOU signing.

6. What non-public consultation took place (name all groups, organisations, entities, individuals involved) - full details of all parties, and copies of all minutes of meetings, emails, documentation.

No non-public consultation took place. The names of the organisations involved are listed in the attached MOU.

7. Which iwi groups were consulted. Provide full copies of all minutes of meetings, emails, documentation?

Iwi were founding members of the Predator Free Rakiura Leadership Group (PFRLG). Tā Tipene O'Regan was the keynote speaker for the event associated with the MOU signing. The MOU was also signed by representatives of the Rakiura Māori Lands Trust, The Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body and the Rakiura Tītī Islands Committee.

8. Were any groups, organisations, entities, individuals (including iwi) given any monetary benefits, grants, funding as part of the development of the Memorandum of Understanding?

No.

9. *Who at DoC Rakiura / Southland Conservancy, Head-Office was involved in developing the Memorandum of Understanding?*

The MOU was developed by the Southland District Council, not DOC.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Reddiex'.

Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai