



17 April 2025

Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5047

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 21 March 2025, for the following:

“The longest and shortest times it took the Department of Conservation to process an application, from receipt to acceptance/denial, for a Wildlife Act Authority under section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 in relation to mining works in the following years:

- 2023
- 2024
- To date in 2025”

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

We have extracted the data on application times from information held by DOC in the Permissions Database, which is presented in the table below:

Year	Working days	
	Minimum	Maximum
2023	N/A	N/A
2024	87	183
2025	N/A	N/A

N/A = No applications received, or no applications reached a decision during the relevant period.

There were no applications in the years 2023 or 2025 that met the criteria in the database. DOC only receives a small number of Wildlife Act authorities under section 53 relating to mining activities per year, with most of these taking many months to process. These applications are often complex and require input from multiple technical specialists. They may involve environmental impact assessments, consultation with iwi and affected stakeholders, and coordination with other regulatory processes. These factors contribute to the lengthy processing times, especially for applications involving sensitive species or habitats.

Notes on data

- Numbers are based on applications received from 1 January 2023 to 21 March 2025, therefore applications received prior to 2023 have been excluded.
- Date calculations are in working days, from the date of receipt of the complete application to the decision date.
- The 'maximum' processing time currently reflects only those applications that have been decided as at 21 March 2025. There is one application received in 2024 that is still under assessment which has been excluded.

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 OIA.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillippa Fox', is written over a faint, light blue circular official stamp.

Phillippa Fox
Director Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai