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17 April 2025

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

Ref: OIAD-5048

Tēnā koe Alice

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

*'The longest and shortest times it took the Department of Conservation to process an application, from receipt to acceptance/denial, for an access arrangement under section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 for mining works on conservation land 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 Access Arrangement (AA) application times from information held by DOC in the Permissions Database, which is presented in the table below:

**Table 1. Times for completion of assessment for AAs received calendar year 2023 – 4 April 2025**

| Type  | Calendar Year | Minimum | Maximum |
|---|---------------|---------|---------|
| Access Arrangement (AA) - Low impact                | 2023          | 2       | 392     |
|   | 2024          | 46      | 238     |
|   | 2025          | N/A     | N/A     |
| Access Arrangement (AA) - Medium impact             | 2023          | 201     | 413     |
|   | 2024          | N/A     | N/A     |
|   | 2025          | N/A     | N/A     |
| Access Arrangement (AA) - Variation - Low impact    | 2023          | 83      | 83      |
|   | 2024          | 66      | 275     |
|   | 2025          | 19      | 19      |
| Access Arrangement (AA) - Variation - Medium impact | 2023          | 161     | 161     |
|   | 2024          | 50      | 50      |
|   | 2025          | N/A     | N/A     |

\*N/A = no applications received, or no applications reached a decision within the relevant period.

**Notes on the data**

- AA applications have been broken down into four separate categories, which vary in complexity
- Numbers are based on applications received in calendar years 2023, 2024 and year to 4 April 2025
- 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 which have been decided as at 4 April 2025. Applications which have not yet reached decision are 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillippa Fox  
Director Regulatory Authorisations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*