

1 August 2025

Whare Kaupapa
Atawhai/Conservation
House - 18 Manners
Street, Box 10420,
Wellington 6140
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5414

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 4 July 2025, in which you asked for:

“Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request the following information:

- 1. Copies of any briefings, memos, or correspondence sent to or received from the Minister of Tourism and/or the Minister of Conservation regarding the Subantarctic commercial tourism fee increases or associated review.*
- 2. Records of any meetings held with the Minister(s) or their offices on this subject, including:*
 - 1. Agendas.*
 - 2. Meeting notes or minutes.*
 - 3. Policy papers*
 - 4. Follow-up communications.*
- 3. Any formal advice prepared for Ministers explaining the rationale for the increases or potential implications for operators.*

If any part of this request is too broad, I am happy to refine the time frame to the last five years.”

On 17 July 2025, your request was partially transferred to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment under section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), as that Ministry may hold information related to any material provided to the Minister of Tourism.

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

In line with the note in your request, we have considered information from the past five years to be in scope, so the request is not as broad.

Decisions on Subantarctic Island fee increases were internally made by DOC and were not a Ministerial decision. The Department updated the Minister of Conservation on this topic as required for meeting preparation and on a no surprises basis.

There are two documents that contain information in scope of your request:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	16 May 2025	25-I-0025 - INVTP-1059 - Invitation Evaluation - Heritage Expeditions	In scope information released as excerpt under section 16(1)(e)
2	Week beginning 7 July 2025	Weekly Report Status Update to Minister of Conservation	Released in full

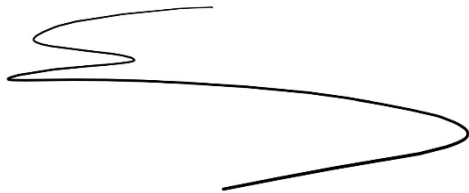
Please note that Item 1 refers to an increase of approximately 162%. Subsequently this increase changed to 151%.

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) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Ruth Isaac by email to risaac@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Ewan Delany
Chief Advisor Policy and Regulatory Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai