

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai /
Conservation House
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6140
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-4938

12 March 2025

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 18 February 2025, in which you asked about the welfare report for South Island kākā Charlie and how the kākā breeding season has gone at the Dunedin Botanic Garden Aviary.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982. Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *I understand an independent assessment report is overdue. What is the status of this report?*

On 27 February 2025, I shared the independent welfare assessment for Charlie with you. This report is now publicly available at: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/news/media-releases/charlie-girl-welfare-assesment-report.pdf>

2. *Can you tell me what breeding success with kākā has the Dunedin facility had this year?*

The South Island kākā at the Dunedin Botanic Garden Aviary have produced two chicks from one pair this season. There were early signs from several pairs that breeding was progressing, including observations of courtship behaviour and enlarged cloacas. However, a significant weather event in October, where Dunedin received four-times its average monthly rainfall, seems to have disrupted the breeding season for several pairs. For reference, there were 17 kākā chicks produced from the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Aviary over the 23/24 breeding season.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact me at haikman@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*