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11 July 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai  
Conservation House  
18 Manners Street  
  
Wellington 6011  
doc.govt.nz  
  
Ref: OIAD-5220

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

## Response two

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 14 May 2025, in which you asked a number of questions and for documents relating to Charlie the kākā.

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

On 3 June 2025 we emailed you to ask if you would be willing to limit your request to information provided by DOC only, as opposed to *all* supporting information, including that provided by third parties. We explained that we would need to source the complete information from Professor Beausoleil directly and consult with each affected third party on releasing the information, and that this would take time. This was particularly relevant to question 3 but also question 1.

As we had not heard from you, on 12 June 2025 we responded to most of your questions but extended the timeframe available to respond to questions 1 and 3 to 11 July 2025 due to the consultation necessary.

This letter is to inform you that I have made a decision on your request, but we need more time to prepare the documents for release. I apologise for the delay. I will provide these documents to you by 25 July 2025 at the latest. Please see below for further details.

*Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act, including all communications, emails, meeting minutes, and messages in the last year regarding:*

1. *All communication with Professor Beausoleil and her organisation on welfare, Charlie Girl, Dunedin, and related issues.*
3. *All supporting documentation from the assessment, including but not limited to: notes, materials provided to Professor Beausoleil, DWH clinical notes, provided 7/1/25, DWH vet welfare assessment report, 18/10/24, Email correspondence and materials provided, 7/1/25, Avian long term medication plan (Sept 2024), DWH clinical notes 2020 – 2024, provided 7/1/25, SI kākā captive breeding programme flocking and breeding plan for 24/25 (1/5/2024), Email correspondence, 6/1/25, Excerpt from Critical Issues document in OIA released documents (date unknown), etc.*

### Information to be released in full

I have decided to release the following information to you:

- Management plan for Charlie Sept 2024
- Professor Beausoleil's observations of Charlie conducted December 2024.
- South Island Kākā Captive Management Plan 2010-2020

### Information to be released in part

I have decided to release the following information to you:

- Email correspondence with Professor Beausoleil from DOC and Dunedin City Council
- Email correspondence between Professor Beausoleil and other parties, including the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital, and members of the public. This includes the DWH Clinical Notes and Avian long term medication plan.
- Dunedin Wildlife Hospital report: Charlie Health and Behavioural Assessment 18 October 2024

### Information to be withheld

Some information will be withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA:

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- preventing undue pressure on officials, under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the OIA, I have considered the public interest and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

### Videos

There are many videos of Charlie attached to emails provided by members of the public. In the interests of practicality, I am not currently planning to include these in the material for release to you (but you will be able to see when and how they were supplied). I suggest that you await the documents, review them, then if you wish to view any of these videos, you are welcome to request them.

### Information refused as publicly available (section 18(d))

The following documents fall within scope of your request but are publicly available:

- Critical Issues document: the relevant excerpt is publicly available from page 307 of attachment 5 at the following link (search for OIAD-4207): [www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/2024/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/2024/)
- Dunedin Wildlife Hospital report: Charlie Health and Behavioural Assessment 9 August 2024 is publicly available at the following link (search for OIAD-4522): [www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/2024/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/2024/)
- Approved SI kākā captive breeding flocking plan 24-25 is publicly available at the following link (search for OIAD-4542) <https://fyi.org.nz/request/28615-captive-kaka-welfare-concerns-dunedin-aviary>

Other information refused (section 18(f))

Professor Beausoleil holds a hard copy file of many of the above documents, plus her own working notes and interview notes. As you may know, the assessment included interviewing various parties, either in person or online. I consider that notes from these interviews fall within scope of your request, however I regret I must refuse these under section 18(f) of the OIA. Section 18(f) allows for the refusing of information because it cannot be made available without substantial collation and research.

For context, Professor Beausoleil took handwritten notes from interviews in hardcopy only. This was intended to build rapport and trust with the interviewee by not having a physical barrier (of a laptop) or recording device. Notes from these interviews, and any other handwritten notes, were intended for Professor Beausoleil's use only, to aid in her considering the assessment and subsequently writing the report.

The hard copy file remains in Professor Beausoleil's possession only. To review this file, identify the information of relevance, digitise, consider the information for release, mark redactions, and consult with all parties would involve substantial collation and research. I also note that much of the information would likely be withheld under section 9 of the OIA. I therefore don't consider it appropriate to ask Professor Beausoleil, Massey University, or DOC to go through this process.

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.

We will write to you again by 25 July 2025.

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Overdyck  
Acting Director Terrestrial Biodiversity  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*