

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Wellington 6011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5220

25 July 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response three

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. I followed up on 11 July to let you know that I had made decisions to release documents, but that further time was needed to prepare the documents for release.

This letter is to share the documents previously identified for release in response to your request below.

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.*

I have decided to release the following information to you, in response to Questions 1 and 3:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	2010 - 2020	South Island Kākā Captive Management Plan 2010-2020	Released in full
2	2024	Management Plan for Charlie 2024	Released in full
3	10 December 2024	Professor Beausoleil's observations of Charlie conducted December 2024	Released in part
4	2024	Email correspondence between Professor Beausoleil and DOC and Dunedin City Council *	Released in part
5	2024	Email correspondence between Professor Beausoleil and members of the public.	Released in part
6	2024	Email correspondence between Professor Beausoleil and other parties, including the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital. This includes the DWH Clinical Notes and Avian long term medication plan.	Released in part
7	18 October 2024	Dunedin Wildlife Hospital report: Charlie Health and Behavioural Assessment	Released in part

* Supplied to DOC by Massey University.

Some information in Items 4 to 7 is 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.

Please note that some information was supplied to DOC by Professor Beausoleil/Massey University with redactions already applied. As such, you may not always see the overlaying redaction text with the withholding section of the OIA. This relates especially to Item 4.

Regarding Item 4, for completeness DOC staff also arranged an email sweep of emails sent from DOC email addresses to Professor Beausoleil. I can confirm that all in scope emails were accurately captured in Item 4.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tim Bamford
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai