



13th February 2025

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 09 January 2025, in which you asked for:

“1. Annual reports from the Eglinton Valley that are missing from your website:

2013/2014

2014/2015

2015/2016

2023/2024

ie the missing reports from this web address:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/eglinton-valley/eglinton-annual-report-2022-23.pdf>

2. All documentation from meetings and all reports regarding the 2023 poisoning operations and monitoring outcomes of the Wet Jacket, Fiordland area including the work on Kiwi at Shy Lake, from 1 January 2023 onwards.

3. All documentation regarding monitoring the effects of the latest aerial brodifacoum operation on Ulva Island and surrounds.

4. All documentation regarding previous aerial 1080 use on Stewart Island prior to 2025 (plans and outcomes).

5. All documentation regarding Dotterel management and recording on Stewart Island from 2015 onwards.”

On 21st January 2025 you clarified part of your request to:

“Question 3

Please provide the following documentation regarding monitoring the effects of the 2023 aerial brodifacoum operation on Ulva Island:

a. The plan for species and ecosystem monitoring of the effects of the brodifacoum, by DOC, or assisted by DOC

b. Any report on the results of the above monitoring

Question 5

The following documentation regarding dotterel management by DOC or its contractors, on Stewart Island, starting from 2015 onwards:

- a. Written plans for dotterel management*
- b. Any report on outcomes of dotterel management and/or any report on monitoring results”*

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

1. *Annual reports from the Eglinton Valley that are missing from your website: 2013/2014, 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2023/2024*

I am providing you with copies of the 2015/2016 and 2023/2024 reports. I have decided to release these reports in full, please refer to the attached document schedule.

Reports from the Eglinton Valley for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 were not produced due to a staff resourcing issues. This has been acknowledged in the summary of the 2015/2016 report. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

2. *All documentation from meetings and all reports regarding the 2023 poisoning operations and monitoring outcomes of the Wet Jacket, Fiordland area including the work on Kiwi at Shy Lake, from 1 January 2023 onwards.*

I refer you to my response of 13 October 2023 (OIAD-3425) and 24 June 2024 (OIAD-4097) for information within scope of this question that has been previously provided to you.

I am providing you with a copy of the 2023/24 Shy Lake annual report. Note that this had not been finalised at the time of your previous OIA.

I am also providing you with updated mustelid monitoring in the table below. Results are shown in tracking tunnel indices (the percentage of tracking tunnels in which stoats were detected).

Date of monitoring	Results (tracking tunnel indices)
Pre-operation (May 2023)	25%
Post-operation (June 2023)	0%
August 2023	0%
November 2023	0%
Feb 2024	8% (8% represents only 2 instances of a mustelid being tracked across 250 monitoring tunnels)
June 2024	5.9%
Aug 2024	Scheduled monitor was not undertaken due to very poor weather and difficulty accessing the site
Nov 2024	5.9%

3. *Please provide the following documentation regarding monitoring the effects of the 2023 aerial brodifacoum operation on Ulva Island:*
 - a. *The plan for species and ecosystem monitoring of the effects of the brodifacoum, by DOC, or assisted by DOC*
 - b. *Any report on the results of the above monitoring*

I am providing you with a copy of the Ulva Island Monitoring Plan, six toxicology reports, a distance sampling bird monitoring report and a rat monitoring report. I have decided to release the relevant parts of these documents, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- information under section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

4. *All documentation regarding previous aerial 1080 use on Stewart Island prior to 2025 (plans and outcomes)*

Aerial 1080 has never been used on Stewart Island by DOC or assisted by DOC, and we have no record of aerial 1080 use on Stewart Island by any other parties. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information is not held by the Department and we have no grounds to believe the information is held by another department.

5. *The following documentation regarding dotterel management by DOC or its contractors, on Stewart Island, starting from 2015 onwards:*
 - a. *Written plans for dotterel management*
 - b. *Any report on outcomes of dotterel management and/or any report on monitoring results*

I am providing you with six season reports for the Southern New Zealand Dotterel/ Tūturiwhatu Recovery Programme, an Operational report for predator control across the Southern NZ dotterel breeding sites, and eight predator control operational plans. I have decided to release the relevant parts of these documents, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Information under section 6(d), as the making available of the information would be likely to endanger the safety of any person,
- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- information under section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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 Official Information Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	2023-2024	Eglington Valley Report	<i>Released in full</i>
2	2015-2016	Eglington Valley Report	<i>Released in full</i>
3	2023-2024	Shy Lake annual report	<i>Released in full</i>
4	20 th April 2023	Ulva Island Monitoring Plan	<i>Released in part</i>
5	6 th Nov 2024	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
6	5 th Oct 2023	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
7	1 st Dec 2023	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
8	24 th Jan 2024	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
9	10 th May 2024	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
10	20 th Sept 2024	toxicology reports	<i>Released in part</i>
11	2023	distance sampling bird monitoring report	<i>Released in full</i>
12	2023	Ulva Island rat monitoring report	<i>Released in part</i>
13	2019/2020	Season summary 2019/2020	<i>Released in part</i>
14	2021/2022	Season summary 2021/2022	<i>Released in part</i>
15	2022/2023	Season summary 2022/2023	<i>Released in part</i>
16	2016	Season summary 2016	<i>Released in part</i>
17	2017	Season summary 2017	<i>Released in part</i>
18	2018	Season summary 2018	<i>Released in part</i>
19	2023-2024	Operational report for predator control across the Southern NZ dotterel breeding sites	<i>Released in part</i>
20	July 2015	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
21	August 2017	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
22	August 2018	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
23	August 2019	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
24	August 2020	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
25	August 2021	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>
26	2022- 2023	Predator control operational plan	<i>Released in part</i>