

28 February 2025



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 02 February 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. A list of DOC Huts and Campsites across New Zealand, including the name of the Hut/Campsite, the DOC Region, the GPS Coordinates, and capacity (where available).*
- 2. The number of visitors, broken down by month and origin of visitor (NZ or Overseas), for each Hut and Campsite across New Zealand, going back as far as reasonably possible from DOC's current data system*
- 3. A list of all DOC-administered Walks/Tracks/Trails, including the name of the Track, the DOC Region, and GPS Coordinates of the track (start and end points, or most relevant coordinates used by DOC already, will suffice), and Track Category or DOC Visitor Group type*
- 4. Monthly usage counts of all DOC-administered Walks/Tracks/Trails, going back as far as possible from DOC's current data system*

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

As context for this response, DOC manages a third of New Zealand's land area, including 13 national parks, thousands of natural and cultural heritage sites and around 35 marine reserves. To enable New Zealanders and visitors to experience this unique nature and heritage, DOC provides and maintains tracks, huts, campsites, toilets and carparks and other assets within the conservation visitor network. DOC is the largest provider of visitor activities in New Zealand.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. A list of DOC Huts and Campsites across New Zealand, including the name of the Hut/Campsite, the DOC Region, the GPS Coordinates, and capacity (where available).*

We have attached this information in two spreadsheets: one for huts (item 1) and one for campsites (item 2). This information includes huts and campsites that are recorded as open and closed in our system. Capacity information does not exist across all campsites, so this has been excluded from the campsite spreadsheet.

2. *The number of visitors, broken down by month and origin of visitor (NZ or Overseas), for each Hut and Campsite across New Zealand, going back as far as reasonably possible from DOC's current data system*

DOC's booking system data tracks bednights as the measure of usage, rather than visitor numbers. As such we have provided bednight data attached as items 3, 4 and 5. Bednights are an industry standard metric – a single bednight represents a person staying for a single night. This data is only available for bookable facilities (approx 320 total).

Our current system holds data going back to July 2018 for the Great Walks, and July 2021 for other facilities. Origin of visitor is only collected for the Great Walks.

General Great Walks bookings data can also be found on DOC's website: [Great Walks booking numbers: Recreation management](#)

The non-Great Walk dataset also includes data for lodge/cabin/cottage facilities, in addition to the regular huts and campsites.

Booking system facility names can differ from those used in DOC's asset management system and on the DOC website, for example when a campsite is split into multiple bookable zones. The facility mapping table includes a list of all places and facilities alongside a Functional Location ID. In the campsite example above, each zone of the campsite will share the same Functional Location, which corresponds to the wider campsite. In some cases, the Functional Location is not recorded in the booking system but it should be possible to identify the facility accurately from the region, place and facility name.

The list of bookable facilities has changed over time and so the facilities listed in a given year may differ from other years.

3. *A list of all DOC-administered Walks/Tracks/Trails, including the name of the Track, the DOC Region, and GPS Coordinates of the track (start and end points, or most relevant coordinates used by DOC already, will suffice), and Track Category or DOC Visitor Group type*

A spreadsheet is attached with this information as item 6. This information includes tracks that are recorded as open and closed in our system.

4. *Monthly usage counts of all DOC-administered Walks/Tracks/Trails, going back as far as possible from DOC's current data system*

DOC uses activity counters to record use of visitor assets. Count data are used to inform asset management and to help understand where, when, and how often people are visiting sites on public conservation land. There are over 700 pedestrian, bicycle and motor vehicle counters installed across the country, with records of varying duration depending upon their installation date.

I regret that we cannot provide monthly usage counts for all DOC walks, tracks and trails as that information does not exist. Therefore, this aspect is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act. We also do not hold the information about the 700 counters in one integrated file that can be shared in spreadsheet form.

However, if you would like to know the counter information about individual sites of interest, please contact Jeff Dalley, our Principal Technical Advisor, Social Monitoring: jdalley@doc.govt.nz. We are also in the process of updating the visitor counter information on the DOC website and I trust this information will also be helpful for you.

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



Shan Baththana
Director, Asset Management
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 Huts data	Released in full.
2	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 Campsites data	Released in full.
3	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 – GW Facility & Bednights <i>Contains bednight data for Great Walk huts and campsites from July 2018</i>	Released in full.
4	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 – Non-GW Facility & Bednights <i>Contains bednight data for other bookable facilities from July 2021</i>	Released in full.
5	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 – Facility Mapping <i>Contains a list of all facilities in the previous two documents, along with the Functional Location, to allow mapping where a single 'actual' facility has been split into multiple 'booking' facilities for marketing/booking purposes.</i>	Released in full.
6	20 February 2025	OIAD-4875 Tracks and trails	Released in full.