

6 May 2025

DOC Kapiti Wellington office  
13 B Wall Place  
Porirua 5024  
doc.govt.nz  
Ref: OIAD-5070



Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 27 March 2025, in which you asked for:

- “1. All advice provided by DOC to the Minister of Conservation, the Minister of Finance or the Treasury relating to support or funding for Puketahā, a proposed fenced wildlife sanctuary in the Wainuiomata water collection area.*
- 2. Any commentary on or response to this advice that DOC may have received from other branches of central Government.*
- 3. Any DOC analysis reports, memos or briefing notes pertaining to this proposal*
- 4. Any correspondence specifically between DOC and any Minister about this proposal.”*

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

On 22 April 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 6 May 2025 due to the consultation necessary.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. All advice provided by DOC to the Minister of Conservation, the Minister of Finance or the Treasury relating to support or funding for Puketahā, a proposed fenced wildlife sanctuary in the Wainuiomata water collection area.*

Please refer to the list of documents in the document schedule appended to this letter.

- 2. Any commentary on or response to this advice that DOC may have received from other branches of central Government.*

We have not identified any information in scope of this part of your request. We must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as despite efforts to find any information in scope we have not identified any information.

3. *Any DOC analysis reports, memos or briefing notes pertaining to this proposal*  
Please refer to the list of documents in the document schedule appended to this letter.

4. *Any correspondence specifically between DOC and any Minister about this proposal.*  
We have not identified any correspondence from DOC employees or contractors to or from any Minister of the Crown on this topic. We must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA 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 OIA.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact by email to [governmentseervices@doc.govt.nz](mailto:governmentseervices@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Alice Heather  
Director Operations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

### Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	25 Feb 2021	20-B-0963 - Briefing - Wainuiomata Fenced Sanctuary Proposal Departmental Memo to the Minister of Conservation. Provides background on the site and proposal; identifies the key players; outlines DOC's involvement to date and recommends next steps	Released in part
1a	n.d	20-B-0963 Attachment 1 – Proposal to fence the Wainuiomata catchment and restore the Remutaka range	Released in part
1b		20-B-0963 Attachment 2 The Wainuiomata Project (the proposal) Confirm details on this	Refused under section 18(d) as the information is publicly available from the author at <a href="https://jameslynch.org/wainuiomatapuketaha">https://jameslynch.org/wainuiomatapuketaha</a>
2	14 Jun 2021	Briefing notes June 14th Wainuiomata Fence Proposal Internal memo containing notes from a meeting regarding the sanctuary proposal.	Released in part.
3	17 Aug 2021	Wainuiomata hihi translocation site assessment Internal advice to support the development of the detailed assessment of the proposal and potential benefits to species recovery.	Released in full.
4	25 Aug 2021	Kiwi Recovery Group advice on potential kiwi species to the sanctuary Internal advice to support the development of the detailed assessment of the proposal and potential benefits to species recovery.	Released in full.
5	23 Sept 2021	Internal Memo to the Acting Deputy Director General - Biodiversity. The memo outlines DOC's formal position on the proposal	Released in part.
6	29 Sept 2021	21-B-0758 – Briefing – Proposed Wainuiomata fenced sanctuary – Recommended Ministerial position The briefing provides context on DOC's position on the Wainuiomata fenced sanctuary proposal and recommends a Ministerial position.	Released in part
7	21 Oct 2021	DOC's detailed assessment of the proposal and potential benefits to species recovery.	Released in full
8	12 Nov 2021	Minister status report item – November 2021	Released in part

9	26 Nov 2021	21-M-0172 Events Memo to the Minister of Conservation to support her visit to proposed Puketahā - Wainuiomata Eco-Sanctuary site.	Released in part.
10	14 Dec 2021	Internal advice. Key messages about the proposal.	Released in full.
11	15 Dec 2021	21-B-1022 Briefing to the Minister of Conservation on decision on most suitable budget bid pathway.	Released in part
12	15 Feb 2022	22-M-0015 Events Memo to the Minister of Conservation to support her meeting with proposed sanctuary lead	Released in part
13		Copy of the feasibility study produced by proposed sanctuary lead Jim Lynch	Refused under section 18(d) of the OIA – publicly available at <a href="https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/03/Environment-Committee-31-March-2022-order-paper.pdf">https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2022/03/Environment-Committee-31-March-2022-order-paper.pdf</a> (page 26 onwards)
14	2 May 2022	Technical report estimating the abundance of mature rimu trees in Puketahā, the proposed Ecosanctuary in Wainuiomata	Released in part.
15	11 May 2022	Hot Topics May 2022 - Wainuiomata Internal Memo that provides an overview of the proposal and DOC's position	Released in part.
16	17 Nov 2022	22-M-0153 Events Memo to the Minister of Conservation to support her visit to proposed	Released in part.
17	15 March 2023	23-B-0072 Support for a funding request to the Prime Minister's Emerging Priorities Fund.	Released in part