

08 May 2025

Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5113

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 08 April 2025, for the following:

“... a list of all s53 permits granted allowing the killing of protected species in the past ten years.”

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

I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information you seek due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested. Unfortunately, our database does not record what section of an Act that a permission is processed under, nor the clauses included within.

This means that to provide you with the information you seek we would need to undertake extensive checks manually. This would place an undue administrative burden on DOC as it would remove staff from their core duties for a substantial period of time and as a result, the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the OIA - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. I have borne in mind section 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of this provision would not assist in this case.

While we cannot meet your exact request, in an effort to provide you reasonable assistance and meaningful information related to the topic of your request, we are able to provide you with information about authorities issued under section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 that authorise the killing of protected species since 4 November 2022. This has been provided to you as Attachment 1: Table of s53 Wildlife Act permissions.

Notes on data

- The information provided in the attachment has been produced via a manual process, as the relevant DOC databases do not record what section of an Act that permits are processed under (nor detail regarding the inclusion of specific clauses).
- This means that information has been pulled from different sources, combined, and manually checked to provide a data set that is as accurate as possible at this time.

- For the purposes of this response, an authority is determined to authorise killing if directly stated under Schedule 1, Clause 1 of the authorisation.
- An active status means that the term end date of the permit has not passed but does not necessarily mean that it is in active use by the holder. DOC issues permits for a set period time, during which an activity can be carried out at any point without notification to DOC.
- The names of individuals who hold permits have been withheld and anonymised under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Additional information relating to your request is publicly available

DOC has recently published our response to a previous request regarding section 53 Wildlife Act authorities on our website. The published response includes copies of 447 authorities issued from 11 October 2019 to 25 November 2022. A list of authority permission numbers and the date of approval can be found in the response letter. The response and subsequent attachments can be found on the DOC website under “Section 53 Wildlife Act Authorities” here: [Official Information Act responses 2025](#).

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Phillippa Fox
Director Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai