

08 May 2025

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

Ref: OIAD-5115

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 issued since this coalition government took office [27 November 2023], with the following details:*

- the project that it was granted for,*
- the justification that was used to prove the project was of “wider environmental benefit”,*
- and the application and approval dates of every permit granted.”*

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

Approximately 299 Wildlife Act authorisations have been identified in our records as having been issued since 27 November 2023 under section 53. A table of these permissions has been provided as Attachment 1: *Table of s53 Wildlife Act authorities since 27 November 2023*.

I am unable to provide you with the names of projects that these permissions were granted for as our systems do not hold such specific data. For context, authorities are issued for a number of reasons which vary in scale and are not necessarily for commercial purposes like large-scale projects. Instead, I have provided you with the primary service and activity list, which gives an overview of the purpose of the authorisation, as well as the holder title. Please note that 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.

I am unable to provide you the information sought in part two of the request, *“the justification that was used to prove the project was of “wider environmental benefit”*, due to the substantial work that would be required to collate the requested information. We have already undertaken substantial manual collation to check each authority provided to you in Attachment 1, as our database does not record what section of an Act a permission is processed under.

To provide you with the *justification* of each authority would involve a manual process that 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. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA, that 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Fox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillippa Fox  
Director Regulatory Authorisations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*