

9 September 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 06 August 2025, in which you asked:

*'Could I please request the following under the OIA.*

- The number of active concessions on DoC managed land*
- The number of concession applications which are waiting to be granted, or renewed*
- The average time it takes to grant or renew a concession – please specify the timeframe you use to calculate this.*

*If you have the following information can you please supply a breakdown of the nature of current concessions, e.g Tourism, recreation, mining, bee keeping, grazing, electricity generation etc.*

*If you have the following information can you please provide it:*

- The number of breaches to concession conditions over the last five years*
- The action taken by DoC to breaches of concession conditions over the last five years.*

*If five years is too long, please reduce the timeframe to a workable length.'*

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

On 12 August 2025 you refined your request to confirm your request concerned concessions associated with proposed Conservation Act amendments as outlined in the following press release <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/unleashing-growth-conservation-land>.

We have therefore interpreted your request as seeking data specifically concerned with concessions DOC has granted rather than total 'Permissions' which covers other approvals such as Wildlife Act 1953 Authorisations.

## Context

DOC acknowledges challenges in the Permissions/concessions system, and as part of wider work to improve conservation land management we are actively working to modernise and streamline it.

This has resulted in the launch of a multi-pronged programme to improve our Permissions system including the introduction of new tools to support the processing and tracking of applications. In practical terms this has resulted in 1,842 applications being completed from January to June 2025 - double the amount completed in the same period in 2024.

In addition to this, the Government announced on 2 August 2025 the drafting of the Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill is underway. A key objective of this amendment bill is to streamline concessions/planning processes and fix the concession process.

For further information please refer to:

- [Factsheet - Modernising conservation land management](#)
- [Improving our regulatory system: Permissions](#)
- [Proposals to modernise the conservation system: Have your say.](#)

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *The number of active concessions on DoC managed land*

DOC regularly publishes a list of all active Permissions on our website at: [Active concessions](#). This dataset includes a list of concessions granted which can be filtered by Service and Permission type.

We can confirm that as of 21 August 2025 there was a total of 4,678 concessions active on Public Conservation Land. This number does not include mining permits however as you have shown interest around 'mining,' we can confirm that there are 141 active mining permits.

Further data of interest can be found at: [Permissions data: Permissions](#).

**Data caveats:**

- *For context, the total number provided above includes both 'active and 'approved' concessions as listed in our systems*
- *Please note that 'approved' concessions have not yet been countersigned by the applicant meaning they are not yet 'active'. Our database does not distinguish between active concessions and those which are approved however are not yet active*
- *As previously highlighted, we are undertaking work required to improve the Permissions system (including the Permissions database).*

2. *The number of concession applications which are waiting to be granted, or renewed*

We have interpreted this aspect of your request as referring to concession applications shown as 'Pending' in our Permissions database. As of 1 September 2025, there were 444 concession applications listed as pending in our database – this number excludes Wildlife Act 1953 applications but does include mining applications.

**Note:** *mining permits are not concessions granted under part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> Access arrangements for mining activities on public conservation land are authorised under Section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, in conjunction with Section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

3. *The average time it takes to grant or renew a concession – please specify the timeframe you use to calculate this.*

As at 1 September 2025, it took an average of 52.4 days to process all concessions. This includes non-commercial drone applications (which take less than a week).

When excluding non-commercial drone applications, the processing time for concession applications is 85 days on average.

Please note this is an average across all concession application types. Concession application processing times can vary notably according to several factors including complexity, type (notified or non-notified), location and other statutory considerations - all of which must be considered before a decision can be made.

4. *If you have the following information can you please supply a breakdown of the nature of current concessions, e.g Tourism, recreation, mining, bee keeping, grazing, electricity generation etc*

Where possible we have categorised concessions according to the list you provided, in Table 1 below. As the list in Table 1 does not include a categorisation for all concessions, we have provided a full list using the Permissions database's primary service categorisation for reference in Table 2.

*Table 1: Concessions categorised by requestor list*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of active concessions</b>
Tourism	1,102
Grazing	466
Recreation	311
Mining	141
Beehives	33
Electricity generation	29
Other concessions	2,737
<b>Total (including Mining)</b>	<b>4,819</b>

**Note:** mining permits are not concessions granted under part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987 however we have included this number in Table 1 for your reference. In this context mining permits cover a range of activities, primarily being access arrangements for prospecting, exploration and extraction.

For a full breakdown of concessions by permission primary service please see Table 2 below:

*Table 2: Concessions by Primary Service*

<b>Primary Service</b>	<b>Number of active concessions</b>
Structures	1,151
Access	699
Guiding	562
Aircraft	519
Grazing	466
Accommodation	431
Telecommunications	206
Events	102
Boating	96
Wild Animal Control	87
Vehicle	68
Extraction	62
General Agriculture	58
Filming/Photography	47
Skifields	28
Other	22
Storage	22
Education/Instruction	22
Attractions	18
Retail	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,678</b>

5. *The number of breaches to concession conditions over the last five years*

Due to time and resource constraints associated with the provision of five years' worth of concession breach data, we have reduced the timeframe down to the past two years. Without reducing the timeframe this aspect of your request would have been refused subject to section 18(f) of the Act – constituting substantial collation or research. If you require additional concession breach data, then please let us know as this can practicably be provided via follow up requests for official information if needed (within two-year timeframes).

For the period 1 August 2023 to 10 August 2025, there were 116 breaches of concession conditions recorded in the Permissions database.

**Note:** *The above figure does not include 'illegal activity'. For context, recorded breaches refer specifically to violations of concession conditions. They do not include illegal activities that occur outside the scope of the concession, even if the individual/company hold a concession.*

6. *The action taken by DoC to breaches of concession conditions over the last five years.*

The actions taken included cancelling concessions, issuing warnings, and addressing breaches through education/advocacy to help concessionaires become compliant. A small number of breaches remain under investigation.

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) 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*