

Christchurch Regional Office
Level 3
Grand Central
161 Cashel Street
Christchurch 8011
doc.govt.nz

10 September 2025

Ref: OIAD-5558

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 13 August 2025, in which you asked for:

‘all briefings for government ministers about Chateau Tongariro from the past six months, and any reports in that time about the future of the chateau or the property's condition?’

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below, relating to the last six months.

1. All briefings for government ministers about Chateau Tongariro

We have identified five documents within scope your request which can be released. These documents are provided and accompany our response as Attachment 1 (items 1 to 5). The nature of these documents is detailed further in the table below.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	17 February 2025	Status report week commencing 17 February 2025	Released in part (extract)
2	7 April 2025	Status report week commencing 7 April 2025	Released in part (extract)
3	5 May 2025	Status report week commencing 5 May 2025	Released in part (extract)
4	12 May 2025	Status report week commencing 2 May 2025	Released in part (extract)
5	7 July 2025	Status report week commencing 7 July 2025	Released in part (extract)

I have decided to release 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,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,

- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

We have also identified the following in scope documents which are withheld in full:

- *25-B-0160 Briefing: Briefing - Abandoned Buildings – Chateau Tongariro* this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and
- *25-B-0304 Briefing: Revised Chateau Cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation* this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and
- *Cabinet Paper - Chateau Tongariro Options for Next Steps (May)* - this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

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.

2. *Any reports in that time about the future of the chateau or the property's condition.*

This aspect of your request is refused in full via section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as no reports relating to the future of the Chateau Tongariro or the property's condition have been produced in the last six months.

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



Shan Baththana
Director Asset Management
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai