[redacted]

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
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Ref: OIAD-9513

25 August 2026

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 29 July 2026, in which you asked:

> *"I would like some clarification please around 1080 expenditures under OIA please. Please correct me if I am wrong. But I googled 1080 cost and it said 335 million over 5 years.*
> *That's 67 million per year if I am not mistaken.*
> *What i want to know if this number is correct.*
> *The breakdown of costs and if the costs of monitoring and any trapping are included. If not. Who are they performed by and at what cost? A breakdown of costs between North and South Island please as well. Percentage north and south. Any supply agreements for 1080 products from overseas and manufacture in NZ"*

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

In the last five financial years, DOC's National Predator Control Programme spent approximately $109.791 million on predator control operations using 1080. The table below provides approximate expenditure on predator control operations using 1080 for the last five financial years, as well as the area of public conservation land where rats, stoats, and possums were controlled through this expenditure.

Financial Year	Predator Control Area (hectares)	Direct cost ($ million)
25/26	867,355	$28.829
24/25	598,137	$25.209
23/24	709,002	$24.169
22/23	515,573	$19.798
21/22	343,438	$11.786

The costs shown above do not include an estimated additional $9 per hectare in indirect programme costs. These indirect costs principally comprise DOC staff salaries (approximately $2 million annually) and monitoring activities (approximately $3 million annually). As these costs support DOC's broader predator control programme, including ground-based pest control operations, long-term ecological monitoring, species monitoring, and non-treatment control sites, they cannot be reliably attributed solely to aerial 1080 operations.

With respect to the part of your request related to trapping, the costs shown above do not include ground trapping costs. DOC undertakes a range of ground-based predator control methods in addition to aerial 1080, including trapping and toxin-based control. DOC's financial systems do not readily provide a breakdown of trapping costs for all predator control operations across New Zealand over the last five years.

Similarly, DOC does not maintain financial records in a manner that would enable expenditure on aerial 1080 operations to be readily separated between the North Island and South Island. To provide this information would require the manual review of individual operational and financial records across more than 100 aerial 1080 operations. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In considering this refusal, we considered whether fixing a charge or extending the time limit for responding would enable the request to be granted. We concluded that neither option would remove the substantial collation and research required.

Regarding the supply of 1080 bait, DOC does not purchase sodium fluoroacetate (1080) directly from overseas suppliers. Bait products used in DOC aerial 1080 operations are manufactured in New Zealand by commercial suppliers. Information regarding individual commercial supply arrangements is held by those suppliers and not by DOC. To the extent that DOC holds contracts relating to the procurement of 1080 bait products, these contracts contain information that is commercially sensitive.

Accordingly, this part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect information where its release would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the suppliers concerned.

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 Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director Biodiversity National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai