

Department of
Conservation

Ōtepoti / Dunedin Office
PO Box 5244
Dunedin 9054
www.doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5981

26th January 2026

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 20 December 2025, in which you asked for:

*Under the Official Information Act, I would like to request any reports or data on the supplementary feeding of royal albatross chicks (*Diomedea epomophora*), particularly regarding how often this occurs, methods used, and the conditions under which it is necessary. I am interested in how supplementary feeding has been used to support chicks when the parent birds are unable to provide enough food.*

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

On 23 January 2026 we clarified in email that the information you have requested is straightforward, routine, and not sensitive and we believe that we can address your questions efficiently with a conversation with a DOC ranger. We offered to coordinate a meeting with a Ranger, and this offer still stands. We also shared some of the relevant information available online and showcased on the Royal Cam.

We would like to clarify that the Department does not supplementary feed or actively manage *Diomedea epomophora* (Southern Royal Albatross). However, we do monitor and manage *Diomedea sanfordi* (Northern Royal Albatross | toroa) at Pukekura/Taiaroa Head. The management of this colony does include supplementary feeding when required. Thus, the information we are releasing is regarding *Diomedea sanfordi* only.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	01/2026	Pukekura Toroa Best Practice_Item 1	Released in part
2	05/2023	Post guard supplementary feeding review_Item 2	Released in full

I have decided to release the 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:

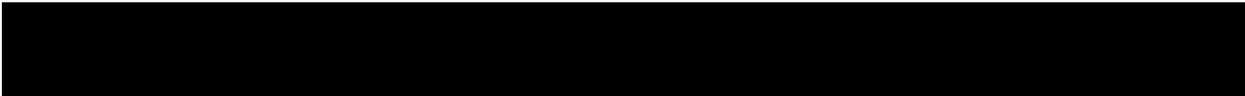
- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,

- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'A Fleming'.

Aaron Fleming MNZM
Regional Director, Southern South Island
Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation