

Conservation House

18 Manners Street
Wellington, 6011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-6052

27 February 2026

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 30 January 2026, in which you asked for:

1. *How many incidents of people directly harming wildlife were made to DOC by region, in each month of 2025?*
2. *How many incidents of people directly harming wildlife were made to DOC by each Canterbury local authority area (if this information is recorded), in each month of 2025?*
3. *What information does DOC hold on the species involved in each Canterbury case?*
4. *What information does DOC hold on the outcomes of each Canterbury case from 2025 e.g. how many were investigated, how many lead to fines, criminal charges etc.)?*

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

On 3 February 2026, you clarified part three of your request to the following:

3. *What species are involved in each Canterbury case?*

You also clarified that your interest was in incidents reported under both the Wildlife Act 1953 and the Dog Control Act 1996.

DOC is responsible for protecting New Zealand's indigenous wildlife and enforcing relevant conservation legislation, including the Wildlife Act 1953 and, in matters relating to public conservation land, the Dog Control Act 1996. To do this, DOC works with the public, other agencies, and community partners to encourage reporting, educate the public on lawful behaviour around wildlife, and promote the protection of threatened species and their habitats.

When incidents involving direct harm, harassment, or killing of wildlife are reported, DOC has a responsibility to investigate, assess potential offences, and determine appropriate action.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *How many incidents of people directly harming wildlife were made to DOC by region, in each month of 2025?*

We have identified a total of 210 incidents of people (including their dogs) harming, harassing, or disturbing wildlife (including Marine Mammals) or their habitat during 2025.

A table of these incidents, broken down by region and month, is provided to you in Table One, Appendix One of this response.

2. *How many incidents of people directly harming wildlife were made to DOC by each Canterbury local authority area (if this information is recorded), in each month of 2025?*
3. *What species are involved in each Canterbury case?*
4. *What information does DOC hold on the outcomes of each Canterbury case from 2025 e.g. how many were investigated, how many lead to fines, criminal charges etc.)*

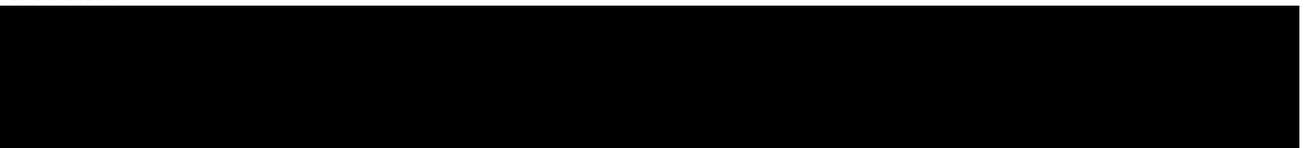
The Department's Eastern South Island region is divided into five districts – Aoraki, Geraldine, Mahaanui, North Canterbury, and Twizel. A total of 18 incidents of people (including their dogs) harming, harassing, or disturbing wildlife (including Marine Mammals) or their habitat within the Eastern South Island Region were reported to the Department in 2025.

I am providing you with three tables (Tables 2, 3, and 4) in the attached in Appendix One of this response which identify these incidents, broken down by district and month, by species, and by outcome, respectively.

As you will see in Appendix One, no incidents were identified in the Aoraki or Twizel DOC districts during 2025, and there were no prosecutions as a result of incidents of people (or their dogs) directly harming wildlife under the Wildlife Act 1953 or the Dog Control Act 1996 in 2025. Prosecution is one of several options available to DOC to manage compliance under these Acts and is generally reserved for serious or repeat offences.

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Anita Murrell'.

Anita Murrell
Principal Advisor, Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai