

12 March 2026

Ref: OIAD-6050

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 28 January 2026, in which you asked various questions concerning DOC hut and track closures since January 2021.

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

During scoping, we advised you of data extraction limitations and that refinement or clarification of your request was necessary for it to be reasonably processed. On 20 February 2026 you clarified (or refined) your request to:

DOC HUT CLOSURES

- 1. A list of permanently closed huts since 1 July 2022 – broken down by dates/years they were closed if possible.*
- 2. A list of the DOC huts which have been temporarily closed between January 2021 and now. Could you please source a list of advertised hut closures via your website team, with dates they were closed if possible? Also, clarifying a temporary closure as being closed for a duration of greater than 7 days*
- 3. How much spent in total on repairs for temporary hut closures of more than 7 days since 1st July 2022 – doesn't need to be broken down by each hut, just an overall figure on spend.*
- 4. Please also indicate if any are still awaiting assessment. Still waiting assessment' covers huts that are closed currently and are waiting for assessment on the repairs needed – or assessment on when they can reopen.*

DOC TRACK CLOSURES

- 5. A list of permanently closed tracks since 1 July 2022 – broken down by dates/years they were closed if possible*
- 6. A list of the DOC tracks which have been temporarily closed between January 2021 and now. Could you please source a list of advertised track closures via your website team? Also, clarifying a temporary closure as being closed for a duration of greater than 7 days*
- 7. How much spent in total on repairs for temporary track closures of more than 7 days since 1st July 2022 – doesn't need to be broken down by each hut, just an overall figure on spend.*

8. *Please also indicate if any are still awaiting assessment. Still waiting assessment' covers tracks that are closed currently and are waiting for assessment on the repairs needed – or on when they'll be able to reopen.*
9. *Can I also please request any reports, communication, or briefings on the decline of huts or tracks. I'm referring to decline as in physical deterioration of assets. Also clarifying I'm seeking key documents (Briefing and Memo's) that may outline contemporary challenges in maintaining the current visitor network, and of this physical deterioration.*

On 25 February 2026 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 12 March 2026 due to the large quantity of information sought and consultation required with impacted third parties.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

DOC Hut closures

1. *A list of permanently closed huts since 1 July 2022 – broken down by dates/years they were closed if possible.*

Please refer to the 'Huts closed or removed' tab in the attached spreadsheet for requested data. This tab provides a list of permanently closed huts since 1 July 2022.

Note: due to system limitations we are unable to provide a comprehensive and complete dataset. The dataset provided has not been reviewed or amended to meet your specific request. For this reason, the list in some circumstances does not have a date or reason for closure.

2. *A list of the DOC huts which have been temporarily closed between January 2021 and now. Could you please source a list of advertised hut closures via your website team, with dates they were closed if possible? Also, clarifying a temporary closure as being closed for a duration of greater than 7 days*

Please refer to the 'Website Alerts – 2021+ tab' in the attached spreadsheet for requested data. Often, huts or tracks are temporarily closed due to weather events, resulting in tree fall, slips or flooding. Some huts or tracks are temporarily inaccessible due to seasonal weather, e.g. substantial snow fall. The list provided is of all closures, as per the OIA request. We also note the following:

- This dataset provides a short summary of what the Alert title and content is when it was published and if it has been achieved.
- The content of the alert typically gives the reason for any closures
- This tab includes both tracks and huts.
- Columns can be filtered to separate data
- We were unable to analyse whether closures were for greater than 7 days

3. *How much spent in total on repairs for temporary hut closures of more than 7 days since 1st July 2022 – doesn't need to be broken down by each hut, just an overall figure on spend.*

Our asset management systems do not record information at this level of detail—either by individual asset location or by isolating costs related specifically to temporary closures. This reflects a deliberate business decision, balancing the cost of capturing highly granular data against the value it would provide relative to other conservation priorities. This means that a readily available dataset does not exist. Manual collation to create this dataset would be substantial and account for the creation of new information which is not required under the act.

Accordingly, this aspect of your request is refused in full subject to:

- Section 18(e) as the requested dataset does not exist
- Section 18(f) as creation of this dataset would equate to substantial collation

4. *Please also indicate if any are still awaiting assessment. Clarifying that 'still waiting assessment' covers huts that are closed currently and are waiting for assessment on the repairs needed – or assessment on when they can reopen.*

Our asset management systems do not track these details at such a granular level. This means that a readily available dataset does not exist. Manual collation to create this dataset would be substantial and account for the creation of new information which is not required under the act.

Accordingly, this aspect of your request is refused in full subject to:

- Section 18(e) as the requested dataset does not exist
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DOC Track closures

5. *A list of permanently closed tracks since 1 July 2022 – broken down by dates/years they were closed if possible*

Please refer to the 'Tracks – Closed or Removed' tab in the attached spreadsheet for requested data. This tab provides a list of permanently closed tracks since 1 July 2022.

Note: due to system limitations we are unable to provide a comprehensive and complete dataset. The dataset provided has not been reviewed or amended to meet your specific request. For this reason, the list in does not have a date or reason for closure.

6. *A list of the DOC tracks which have been temporarily closed between January 2021 and now. Could you please source a list of advertised track closures via your website team? Also, clarifying a temporary closure as being closed for a duration of greater than 7 days*

Please refer to the 'Website Alerts – 2021+ tab' in the attached spreadsheet for requested data. Often, huts or tracks are temporarily closed due to weather events, resulting in tree fall, slips or

flooding. Some huts or tracks are temporarily inaccessible due to seasonal weather, e.g. substantial snow fall. The list provided is of all closures, as per the OIA request. We also note the following:

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- The content of the alert typically gives the reason for any closures
- This tab includes both tracks and huts.
- Columns can be filtered to separate data
- We were unable to analyse whether closures were for greater than 7 days

7. *How much spent in total on repairs for temporary track closures of more than 7 days since 1st July 2022 – doesn't need to be broken down by each hut, just an overall figure on spend.*

Our asset management systems do not record information at this level of detail—either by individual asset location or by isolating costs related specifically to temporary closures. This reflects a deliberate business decision, balancing the cost of capturing highly granular data against the value it would provide relative to other conservation priorities. This means that a readily available dataset does not exist. Manual collation to create this dataset would be substantial and account for the creation of new information which is not required under the act.

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9. *Can I also please request any reports, communication, or briefings on the decline of huts or tracks. I'm referring to decline as in physical deterioration of assets. Also clarifying I'm seeking key documents (Briefing and Memo's) that may outline contemporary challenges in maintaining the current visitor network, and of this physical deterioration.*

Regretfully we are still processing this part of your request. I apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, we will be in touch as soon as we can.

For your reference, when released some information will be withheld under and/or section 9 of the Official Information Act as applicable.

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 'S. Baththana'.

Shan Baththana
Director Asset Management
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai