

Christchurch Regional Office

Level 3
Grand Central
161 Cashel Street
Christchurch 8011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-6050

24 March 2026

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

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

- 1. A list of permanently closed tracks since 1 July 2022 – broken down by dates/years they were closed if possible*
- 2. 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*
- 3. 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.*

4. *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.*
5. *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.*

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

On 16 March, in-scope data held by the Department was released for your reference as part of our Tranche 1 response. At that time, we also contacted you regarding the scope of information relevant to the aspect of your request that sought:

'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'

You subsequently agreed to refine this aspect of your request to receiving:

'research which summarises the challenges facing the visitor network'

Context

DOC acknowledges that our current visitor network faces significant pressure from growing demand, ageing assets and funding constraints. In response to these challenges and in line with the Minister's outlined priorities, including to generate new revenue and recalibrate costs, ([New priorities to protect future of conservation | Beehive.govt.nz](#)) we are reviewing how the network is managed and funded to ensure it remains safe, sustainable, and focused on supporting conservation outcomes over the long term.

Response

A summary highlighting challenges facing DOC's visitor network has been collated and is provided as an attachment to our Tranche 2 response. A breakdown of these documents is set out in the schedule of documents table below.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	N/A	Visitor Network Strategy Extract - Visitor Network Challenges	Released in part
2	N/A	DOC Visitor Network Challenges - Summary	Released in full

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', written in a cursive style.

Shan Baththana
Director Asset Management
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai