

4 September 2026

Ref: OIAD-9534

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request concerning access to Waikawa Beach, Horowhenua.

On 5 August 2026, you requested a broad range of information held by the Department of Conservation (DOC) concerning Waikawa Beach from 1 January 2022 to 5 August 2026. On 10 August 2026, DOC advised that initial scoping had identified nearly 1,000 potentially relevant digital records and invited you to refine the request, as responding in full was likely to require substantial collation and research.

You subsequently limited the timeframe to 1 January 2024 to 10 August 2026 and the subject matter to access between the Waikawa Beach settlement and the beach via Manga-Pirau Street, Reay MacKay Grove, Drake Street or Waikawa Beach Road, whether by foot, bicycle, vehicle, horse, mobility device or similar means.

The refined request covered records directly relating to that access, including associated environmental, ecological, technical, statutory and regulatory matters; internal and external correspondence; reports, maps and photographs; meeting records; and recommendations, approvals and decisions. You confirmed that the wider subject matter in your original request was no longer required.

Following further clarification, you confirmed that “related hapū” referred to Ngāti Wehi Wehi and that the landowner component covered Waikawa Beach property owners who had corresponded about access through one of the four identified routes. This revised and clarified request replaced your original request and has been treated as the operative request under section 15(1AA) of the OIA.

In identifying information within scope, we have applied the revised date range of 1 January 2024 to 10 August 2026 and focused on records that directly and substantively concern pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, horse, mobility-device or similar access between the Waikawa Beach settlement and the beach by way of Manga-Pirau Street, Reay Mackay Grove, Drake Street or Waikawa Beach Road.

Consistent with your clarification, the search included:

- ecological or environmental assessments, technical or scientific advice, maps and photographs directly associated with access by one or more of those routes;

- correspondence and meeting records involving DOC, relevant councils, identified community groups, Ngāti Wehi Wehi, relevant landowners and Waikawa Beach property owners where the subject was access through one or more of those routes;
- relevant internal DOC communications;
- statutory or regulatory advice directly concerning the identified access routes; and
- recommendations, approvals, decisions or advice prepared by DOC managers or decision-makers specifically concerning access to Waikawa Beach through those routes.

A number of documents you have requested have previously been proactively released as part of our response to information request OIAD-9364 which is publicly available on DOC's website at the following link:

[Official Information Act responses 2026](#)

Accordingly, I am refusing your request in part under section 18(d) of the Act for that information, as that information is already publicly available.

DOC searched the relevant electronic record systems, application file 125600-OTH and operational records held outside that file.

Although your refinement substantially narrowed the request, our database searches still returned a very large number of records mentioning "Waikawa" or "Waikawa Beach". A record was included only where it had a direct and substantive connection with access between the settlement and the beach through one of the four identified routes, or with an ecological, environmental, technical, statutory or decision-making matter directly associated with that access.

We have therefore excluded general material about the wider Waikawa Beach area, coastal management, wildlife, biodiversity, recreation or routine operations that did not directly concern access through an identified route. We have also excluded unrelated uses of the name Waikawa; search and OIA-processing administration; routine document-loading or filing messages; and correspondence that merely forwarded material without adding substantive information.

To the extent that the refined request includes routine administrative, document-loading or filing communications, or correspondence that merely forwards information, this part is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA because it cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We identified the correspondence and related DOC records listed below as relevant to your refined request. Where an email chain repeats earlier correspondence in full, duplicate copies have not been provided again. Duplicate copies of the same supporting documents have also been removed. This does not affect the substantive information being released.

Names of individuals have been redacted under section 9(2)(a) to protect their privacy.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review by an Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this response, please contact governmentservices@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



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

Documents released

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	March 2026	Manawatū Monthly Report. Relevant community and Treaty reporting – extract only.	Released in full.
2	2026	LNI SLM Register. Relevant Waikawa Beach compliance-register entry.	Released in full as relevant extract
3	15 October 2025–2 March 2026	Email record arranging site visit	Released in part — s 9(2)(a).
4	21 April 2026	DOC-10852093. Initial easement contact.	Released in part — s 9(2)(a).
5	19 February 2026	DOC-10681663. HDC easement application, form and two maps.	Released in part — s 9(2)(a).
6	February 2026	DOC-10801216. DOC site-visit report, maps and photographs.	Released in full.
7	2026	DOC-10802076. Internal Request for Comments.	Released in full.
8	2026	DOC-10896069. Earlier fauna-advice version.	Released in part — s 9(2)(a).
9	4 May 2026	DOC-10898018. Fauna-advice email and later substantive version.	Released in part — s 9(2)(a).



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government