



DOC Queenstown
1 Arthurs Point Road
Queenstown, 9371

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5119

12 May 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 9 April 2025, in which you asked:

Please provide me with the following information for the period: 1990 to date: :

a) The change in staffing - months and dates - whether full time or part time:

- *Stewart Island DOC Managers*
- *Stewart Island Biodiversity Managers*
- *Dotterel Staff (including their credentials and experience)*
- *Budget spent on dotterel management*
- *Reason why DOC think there was an increase from 1994 to 2009/10.*
- *Reason why DOC think there was a decline from 2010 to date?*
- *When will the dotterel count be completed and who is undertaking the dotterel count?*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Please note that we have amended the date range to the last five years as to provide information from 1990 to date would involve substantial research.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

The change in staffing - months and dates - whether full time or part time:

I note that you have not asked for staff names, but I have opted to provide Rakiura Operations Managers' names in the interest of transparency.

1. Stewart Island DOC Manager:

Operations Manager for DOC Rakiura:

Ren Leppens (Nov 2017 – Sep 2022)

Phil Tisch (Jun 2021 – Jul 2021)

Melissa Griffin (Feb 2022 – March 2022)

Sasha Smith (Jul 2022 – Sep 2022)

Jennifer Ross (Nov 2022 – present)

Alex MacLeod (Jul 2023 – Nov 2023)

Bridget Carter (Aug 2024 – Feb 2025)

2. Stewart Island Biodiversity Managers

Senior Ranger Biodiversity 1 (Jan 2021 – Feb 2025)

Senior Ranger Biodiversity 2 (Jul 2022 – Oct 2023)

Senior Ranger Biodiversity 3 (April 2025 – present)

3. Dotterel Staff (including their credentials and experience)

Dotterel field rangers are recruited due to their experience and capabilities with ground-based predator control techniques. Over the past five years the field programme has shifted from employing field staff for a six-month seasonal period, to employing field staff on a permanent or fixed-term basis. Since 2020 the Dotterel Recovery Team has comprised of:

Ranger 1 (Nov 2017 – Jan 2020)

Ranger 2 (Sep 2019 - Mar 2022)

Ranger 3 (Sep 2019 – Jan 2021)

Ranger 4 (Sep 2019 - Feb 2020)

Ranger 5 (Oct 2020 - Feb 2021)

Ranger 6 (Aug 2021 – Feb 2022)

Ranger 7 (Sept 2020 – Sept 2021)

Ranger 8 (Oct 2021 – Feb 2022)

Ranger 9 (Oct 2022 – present)

Ranger 10 (Nov 2022 – present)

Ranger 11 (Jan 2023 – Sept 2024)

Ranger 12 (Aug 2023 – Mar 2024)

Ranger 13 (May 2024 - Dec 2024)

Ranger 14 (Sept 2024 – present)

Ranger 15 (Sept 2024 – March 2025)

Ranger 16 (Nov 2024 – May 2025)

4. *Budget spent on dotterel management*

Financial Year	Actual Spend at FYE
20/21	\$242,781
21/22	\$276,006
22/23	\$117,538
23/24	\$376,894
24/25	*\$387,786

*ongoing

5. *Reason why DOC think there was an increase from 1994 to 2009/10.*

6. *Reason why DOC think there was a decline from 2010 to date?*

The Department is not required to generate an opinion or explanation under the Official Information Act, so I have not answered these questions.

7. *When will the dotterel count be completed and who is undertaking the dotterel count?*

The dotterel flock counts take place each year in April or May, once the dotterels have finished breeding and migrated to their winter flocking sites. This season the flock count took place from 8-10 April. The dotterel counts on Rakiura were undertaken by the current dotterel field team with support from additional DOC Rakiura biodiversity staff and skilled volunteers.

The count at Awarua Bay (Southland) was undertaken by DOC Murihiku biodiversity staff and skilled volunteers.

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.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Rachael Moore by email to ramoore@doc.govt.nz

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Fleming', is positioned below the Māori phrase.

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