

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
Conservation House 18
Manners Street Te Aro,
Wellington

6011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5793

27 November 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 30 October 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. How many kiwi were caught on camera prior to the two 1080 drops on Stewart Island?*
- 2. How many dead kiwi were recovered?*
- 3. Were any of these dead kiwis autopsied?*
- 4. What were the results of such testing?*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. How many kiwi were caught on camera prior to the two 1080 drops on Stewart Island?*

Please see the attached maps, which show camera monitoring results for kiwi encounters both before and after the Pukunui Operation.

The cameras work by detecting motion and capturing images of kiwi as well as any other moving things. An encounter is counted as a single encounter, if images collected are less than 5 minutes apart. This methodology is used as one kiwi can be captured from a single interaction, a number of times.

It is worth noting that the pre-operation monitoring was undertaken over a period of 3.5 months. The monitoring for kiwi post operation has only happened over a period of 6 weeks. Whilst kiwi have been detected on less cameras, post operation – the daily encounter rate has remained essentially the same (figure 3 refers).

- 2. How many dead kiwi were recovered?*
- 3. Were any of these dead kiwis autopsied?*
- 4. What were the results of such testing?*

Since the Pukunui Operation, two dead kiwi have been recovered. These kiwi have been recovered from locations outside the operational area where 1080 was applied. One kiwi was recovered from Trails Bay, and the other from Doughboy Bay. Both have been sent

to Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research for independent testing, which tests the kiwi for 1080.

The reports for both kiwi have been attached. The results show that 1080 was not detected in either kiwi. The result is recorded using technical jargon. The report says “<MDL”. That means no 1080 was detected (i.e. it was below the Minimum Detection Level for the testing equipment), and the accuracy of this result is down 0.001µg/g, or 0.001 thousandths of a gramme per gramme of tissue tested, which is extremely sensitive.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	14 October 2025	Traills Bay Kiwi – Manaaki Whenua Report – T8825	Released in part
2	12 November 2025	Doughboy Bay Kiwi – Manaaki Whenua Report	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA.

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.

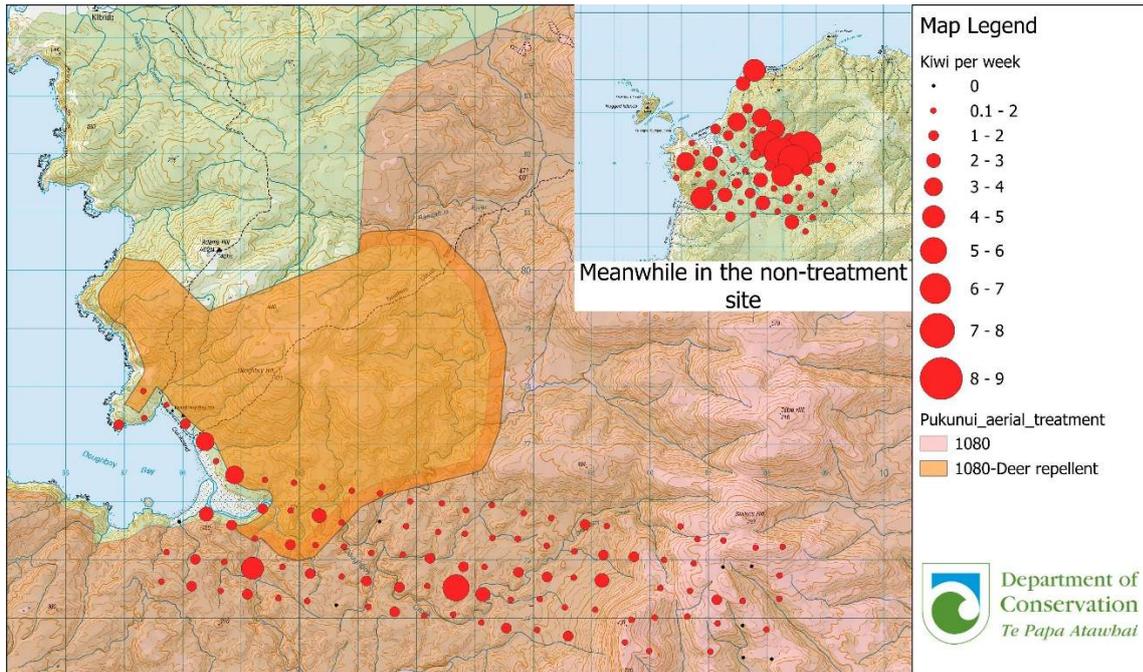
You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

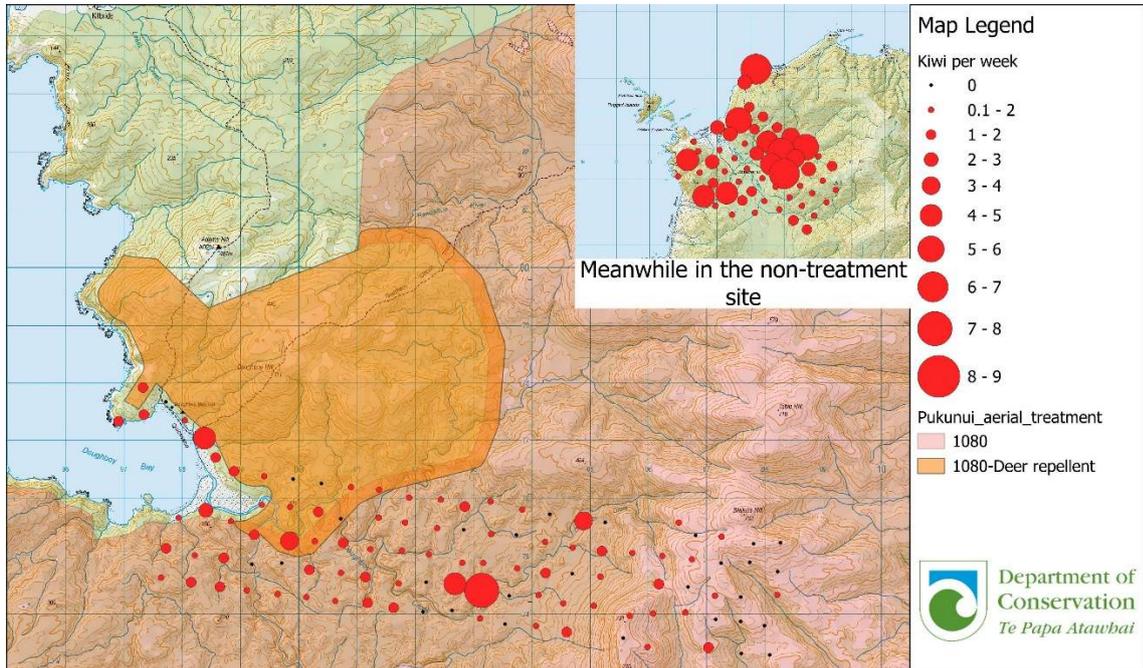


Karl Beckert
Acting Director, National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Trail camera image index for KIWI on the on the cat grids, PRIOR to the Pukunui pest control operation. These results are for the period 06/05/25 to 22/08/25

Figure 1: Trail Camera Index – Kiwi – Prior to Pukunui Operation



Trail camera image index for KIWI on the on the cat grids, AFTER the Pukunui pest control operation. These results are for the period 23/08/25 to 08/10/25

Figure 2: Trail Camera Index – Kiwi – After the Pukunui Operation

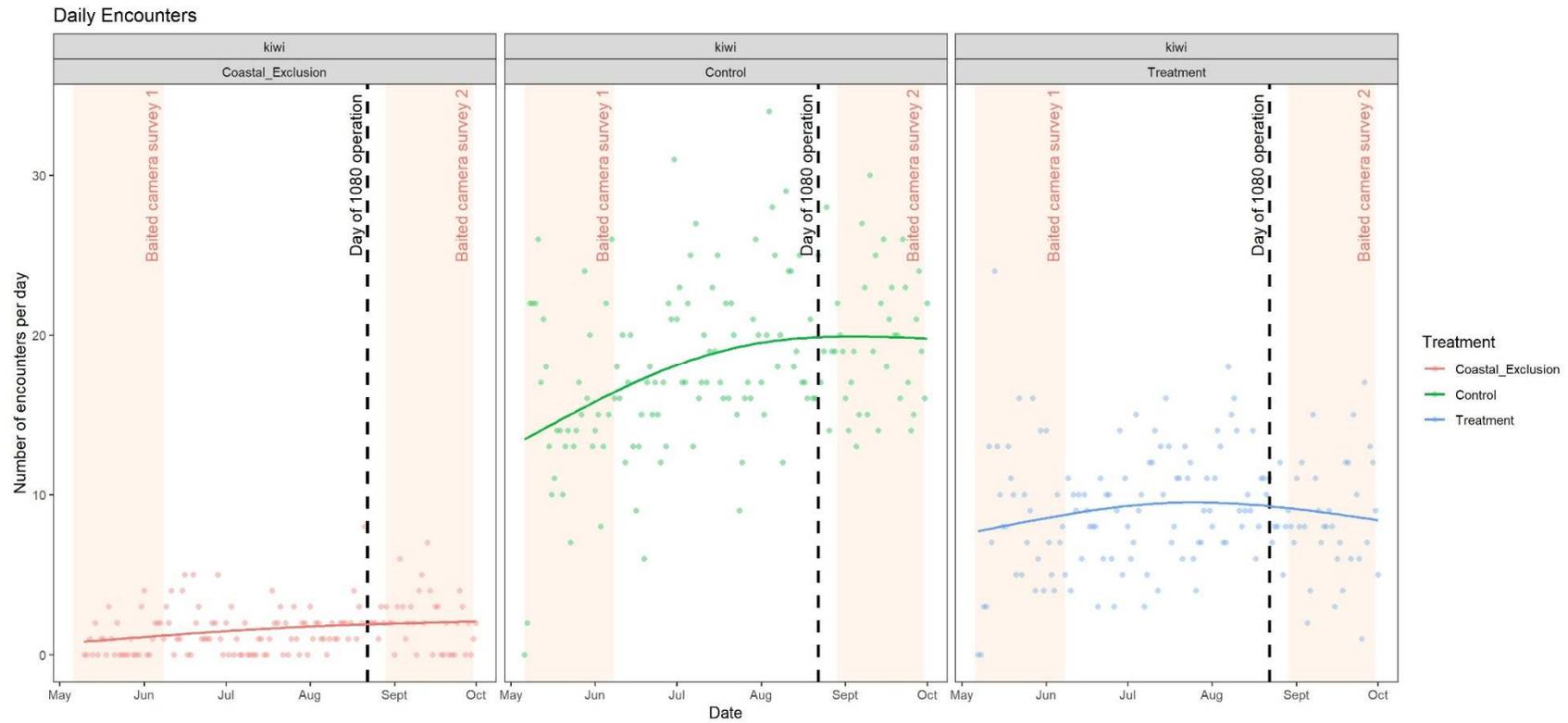


Figure 3: Daily encounter rates for 3 areas, (coastal exclusion area, non-treatment area (control) and aerial treatment area) pre and post Pukunui Operation