

DocCM-5460897
18-E-0132

26 April 2018

9(2)(a)



Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 30 March 2018 asking for information in relation to the Department of Conservation's use of six helicopters chartered from Alpine Helicopters in Wanaka on 14 March 2018. In this context you asked for the following information:

"Could you tell me the purpose of these chartered flights and who was chartered on them. Can you please attach and show the payment to Alpine Helicopters Wanaka."

You made your request to the Minister of Conservation. On 3 April 2018 your request was transferred from the Minister's Office to the Department of Conservation as the information you seek is more closely related to the functions of the Department.

In response to your request I am able to advise that the purpose of the charter flights on 14 March 2018 was to show The Nature Conservancy's Asia Pacific Council conservation work that is underway in Fiordland, specifically work to recover kākāpō and takahē.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a charitable environmental organisation, pursuing solutions to conservation challenges, and working with partners including indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions, and other non-profits. TNC are significant donors to conservation around the world and across the Asia Pacific region. You can read more about TNC on their website: www.nature.org

TNC's Asia Pacific Council and two Departmental staff were on the charter in question. This was paid for by TNC. I am unable to provide you with information showing this payment as this information is not held by the Department. This decision is made under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

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 Act.

A further helicopter was used to fly a ground team in ahead of the group to manage the health and safety logistics necessary to ensure a safe trip. This helicopter was chartered from Te Anau Helicopter Services by the Department. This helicopter charter was for 2.2 hrs at a cost of \$4,950 exclusive of GST. I note that TNC are reimbursing the Department for the use of this helicopter.

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

Whakātu Nelson Office

Phone: 03 5469335, Private Bag 5, Nelson 7042,

www.doc.govt.nz

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) will be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely

9(2)(a)


Martin Rodd
Director Partnerships