

16 April 2021

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 21 March 2021 in which you asked for:
information (briefings/reports/correspondence) about illegal/anti-social/concerning behaviour by people involved in the Jobs for Nature scheme; including, but not be limited to, reports of drug taking and binge drinking.

Your request also specified: *information sent to or shared with DOC operational managers and/or the manager of Jobs for Nature for the department.*

Context

As a part of the Government's \$1.245 billion Jobs for Nature package the Department of Conservation has been allocated \$501 million to fund project partners to deliver nature-based job creation and conservation outcomes on our behalf.

Each Jobs for Nature project partner is subject to stringent Health & Safety clauses when they sign funding agreements. This includes a "no tolerance for impairment" policy towards alcohol or drugs compromising people's safety.

The Department of Conservation does not specify how a Jobs for Nature project partner approaches impairment within the wider Health and Safety framework. Any notifiable events, such as a failed drug test, must be reported to DOC within one business day, and any critical risk incidents reported as soon as practicable.

Findings

The Department – Operations Managers/Directors, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature, and other managers involved with Jobs for Nature projects - have not received any reports/briefings/correspondence detailing illegal/antisocial behaviour between 1 October 2020 and 21 March 2021. However, subsequent random drug testing (outside of this date range) has produced one report of failed drug tests.



Through our regular reporting and monitoring system we were informed by a project partner that during random drug testing two failed tests were recorded and that subsequent action was taken by the project partner to prevent a return to work until they could produce a clean test.

The Department of Conservation is satisfied that the Jobs for Nature project partner correctly followed Health & Safety procedures, and that the appropriate action was taken after the failed drug tests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Reg Kemper'.

Reg Kemper
Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai