

9 December 2022



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 15 November 2022 in which you asked for:

** What was total cost of all masks supplied to the public since the beginning of covid (30 March 2020 till now)? Please separate out by mask type i.e. medical mask, N95, P2 particulate respirator etc.*

** What is the cost budgeted for future mask expenditure over the next 2 years.*

We do not supply masks to the public. Throughout our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we supplied masks to staff and several partners (such as contractors and volunteers), but not to the public. We do acknowledge that our staff may have provided individual masks to members of the public at a local level for their protection during interactions with the wider community; however, this was not recorded. We do not require staff to record the number of masks they may have supplied to the public, as this would have been done on an ad hoc basis. Additionally, we are not required to budget for mask expenditures for public use, as the public does not have regular access to our masks.

As a result, I am refusing your request for the total cost of the masks supplied to the public and future budgets for mask expenditures under section 18(e), as the information does not exist.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Harry Maher
Director, Health Safety and Security
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai