

14 August 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 18 July 2023, in which you asked for:

- 1. What are the "number of residual matters to be concluded as could be expected with a 30-year lease of this nature"? Do they have anything to do with the state (of disrepair) the former owners have left the building in?*
- 2. How many "inquiries of interest" have DOC received? And from whom?*
- 3. How much money is the "routine maintenance" of the building costing DOC? Or has cost DOC so far?*
- 4. Are DOC carrying out the seismic assessment? How long will this take?*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. What are the "number of residual matters to be concluded as could be expected with a 30-year lease of this nature"? Do they have anything to do with the state (of disrepair) the former owners have left the building in?*
 - We can confirm that residual matters associated with this lease include maintenance requirements under the lease agreement and the removal of Kah NZ Ltd owned assets from the building.

We cannot go into the details of other matters to be concluded as they are subject to legal privilege and on-going negotiations.
- 2. How many "inquiries of interest" have DOC received? And from whom?*
 - We have received approximately fifteen enquiries of this nature at the time of your request, and we welcome interest in this historic place. These are from a range of individuals from both New Zealand and overseas who have requested further



information once we are in a position to provide it. The enquiries have been acknowledged by DOC.

Once we have determined what the long-term future for the property could be, we will be in a better position to respond to any suggestions or proposals for the Chateau's use.

DOC is keenly aware the Chateau is an iconic heritage building sitting at the gateway to the Tongariro National Park, which itself has Dual World Heritage for its natural and cultural heritage. We are committed to working with iwi and a range of stakeholders on these issues.

3. *How much money is the "routine maintenance" of the building costing DOC? Or has cost DOC so far?*

- Costs for maintenance as at 30 June 2023 were \$54,838 with total costs for this building expected to cost approximately \$195,000 per year. This will account for routine maintenance and inspections to maintain the building's 'Building Warrant of Fitness (BWF)'.
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4. *Are DOC carrying out the seismic assessment? How long will this take?*

- At the time of your request the department had not commissioned a seismic report on the Chateau Tongariro building.

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 Official Information Act.

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

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Nāku noa, nā

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Shan Baththana
Acting Director, Business Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai