

16 August 2023

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation ('the Department'), received on 24 July 2023, in which you asked for:

- 1) *The 2022-23 season ranger's report for management of the Fairy Tern and the Mangawhai spit/wildlife reserve;*
- 2) *The annual report and costs of the Fairy Tern Recovery Group since its inception.*

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

On 1 August 2023 you amended part two of your request to:

*What is the estimate of national staff (non-operations staff) time spent on the Fairy Tern Recovery Group work since its inception.*

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1) *The 2022-23 season ranger's report for management of the Fairy Tern and the Mangawhai spit/wildlife reserve;*

The Mangawhai Tara iti 2022/2023 seasonal report is appended to this letter.

Please note that some information in the attached seasonal report has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	May 2023	<i>Monitoring and management of the New Zealand fairy tern / Tara iti (Sternula nereis davisae) and other shorebirds at Mangawhai, for the 2022 – 2023 Breeding Season</i>	Released in part



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.

2) *What is the estimate of national staff (non-operations staff) time spent on the Fairy Tern Recovery Group work since its inception.*

The Tara iti Recovery Group was established in 2019 and has typically consisted of five non-operational Departmental staff (herein referred to as science and technical staff, or S&T staff), including the recovery group leader.

S&T staff often do not record their time to specific projects, so it is not possible to respond to part two of your request accurately.

However, it is estimated that each S&T member of the recovery group spends 30 per cent of their time on recovery group work, or 620 hours each over the course of the year. This estimate is based on task assignments for recovery group members.

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

[Redacted]

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted]

Kirstie Knowles  
Director Biodiversity System and Aquatic  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*