



19-E-0710 DOC-6102219

1 November 2019

Sue Grey
Via fyi.org.nz

Dear Sue

I refer to your official information request of 13 October 2019 for information on the photos of possums that we referred to in our 1 October 2019 response to Tim Benseman's official information request. You also asked for information on the photograph of a stoat on our website.

We have grouped some of your questions together for ease of response.

Your ongoing requests for publicly available information

I note that much of the information you seek in this request is publicly available. As I have advised previously, managing repeated requests of this kind is administratively burdensome and unsustainable, and we will not be providing information that is available publicly.

Photos referred to in our response of 1 October 2019

You asked for:

- a) a copy of each of the photos you refer to in your reply;*

I can advise that the photos can be accessed on our website at the following locations:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests/possums/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2010/possums-eat-kea/>

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

Information publicly available in photo credits

You requested:

b) the date each of these photos were taken,

c) where each of these photos was taken and any other available information about the circumstances in which they were taken

e) the source of each of the photos you refer to, including whether they were taken by DoC staff, or by a third party and if so, whether the third party is @Nga Manu Images and/or purangikiwi.co.nz;

As far as this information is held by the Department, it is publicly available on our website as part of the photo credit for the two commercial images, and as part of the page content for the DOC images.

We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as some information is publicly available, and section 18(g) of the OIA, as some information is not held by the Department.

Information showing any payment for photos

d) information to show any payment or other consideration provided for each of these photos

The Department received permission from the photographers to use the images free of charge. We are therefore declining this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

The stoat was alive when photographed

You asked:

Please confirm if a live or stuffed stoat is used in that photo.??

The photo of the stoat was not commissioned by the Department. It was taken by an award-winning wildlife photographer and photo-journalist, and is available for purchase by the public on his website along with many other photographs of animals and birds.

We are confident that the stoat was alive at the time it was photographed. However, the Department is not relying on the photo as evidence that stoats prey on native wildlife. Our position on this issue is based on the body of scientific research that surrounds it, some of which we have referred you to previously.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at this email address.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kessick', written over a horizontal line.

Martin Kessick
Deputy Director-General, Biodiversity