

21 October 2022

Wendy Pond

[fyi-request-20723-8470289e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-20723-8470289e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Wendy

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 02 October 2022 in which you asked for:

- 1. Given that DOC is subject to this definition of consultation when applying for permission to carry out aerial poisoning of forest ecosystems, please provide documentation of consultation with the Society during planning for wholesale poisoning of the Moehau and Papakai Public Conservation forests in 2013, 2017, and 2022, and note that notification is not consultation.*
- 2. Given that the Society is well known to DOC managers — from our participation in Environment Court proceedings, our submissions on resource consents, our comprehensive publication on the Whangarahi catchment, our critical analysis of DOC's predator control policy, and our concern to live in a poison-free landscape -- as a materially interested and affected local group in the matter of protecting ecosystems, please explain (a.) why consultation in 2013, 2017, and 2021/22 was selective (some conservation groups were consulted when Manu Waiata Restoration & Protection Society was not) and (b.) why DOC officers did not provide a means of addressing our concerns, and note that DOC officers could not presume to know or address our concerns without consulting us.*

Our response to both your questions is detailed below.

Ahead of each of the Papakai and Moehau 1080 predator control operations you have specified, the Department consulted with potentially affected parties, primarily iwi, hapū, and adjacent landowners. We notified a broader range of parties, including concessionaires, hunting groups, schools and medical centres.

The Department did not consult with Manu Waiata Restoration & Protection Society ahead of the operations you have specified, as it was not identified as an affected party. I note that Manu Waiata was notified in some instances, however you have excluded notification from your request. We are therefore refusing your request for documentation of consultation with



the Society under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as the information does not exist.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex  
Director, National Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*