



19-E-0377 / DOC 6000997

3 July 2019

Hannah Enderby
via fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Enderby

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation dated 10 June 2019. You requested the following:

Re: the one Kiwi dropping that you tested for 1080 poison - and that came back as proven to have 1080 poison in it- Please provide copies of all correspondence and photos regarding this incident from the moment of first suspicion of kiwi being poisoned until 14 days after the positive test. I want to see the reasoning behind the decision to stop testing kiwi scat. And also to stop testing kiwi for 1080?

Before dealing with your request, we set out the following contextual information as it may assist your understanding of why we use 1080 in our predator control programmes.

Aerial 1080 improves kiwi chick survival

[Published research \(external site\)](#) relating to a recent study shows unequivocally that using aerial 1080 to suppress possums, rats and stoats (killed when they eat poisoned pests) benefits kiwi by allowing kiwi to survive to levels that can build their population. The research shows that aerial 1080 pest control significantly improves the survival of kiwi chicks for two years before dropping off when rat and stoat populations begin to recover to pre-control levels.

The study also monitored 142 radio-tagged kiwi through four aerial 1080 operations and found that none were poisoned. Additional information on kiwi monitoring and numbers can be found on [the Department's website](#).

1080 saves brown kiwi chicks from 'untrappable' stoats

Monitoring in the Whangārei Kiwi Sanctuary, where stoats were being trapped year-round, showed that kiwi survival had begun to decline. DOC scientists believed this was due to some untrappable stoats moving to live at this site. They knew that aerial 1080 operations kill most resident stoats through secondary poisoning, so tested the short-term use of 1080 as a way of getting rid of these problematic stoats in a series of trials in 2009 and 2010.

1080 baits were placed in bait stations in two areas that had been trapped for more than five years, and kiwi chick survival after the 1080 treatment was compared with previous years when just traps were used. It was also compared with another area where traps alone were used. The results showed that kiwi chick survival increased

after the 1080 treatment. We refer you to [the Department's website](#) which provides more information on this study.

Your OIA request

We require an additional 20 working days to respond to this part of your request and have decided to make the necessary extension under section 15A of the Official Information Act 1982. We will send you a response no later than 31 July 2019, or earlier if possible.

The extension of time is necessary as the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request mean that a proper response cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint to an Ombudsman about the contents of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Bill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Amber Bill
Director Threats
For Director-General