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John Luke

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Dear John

Thank you for your request for information relating to the roll out of the Department of Conservation uniform to staff. You have asked the question whether the uniform roll out extends to Conservation Board members and whether there is a discussion paper available to board members?

The answer to both questions is no. When we developed the Uniform Allocation plan we had to tightly manage who got what with the priority for kitting out our field rangers as the uniform has a number of elements which cover health and safety considerations. There are several staff in various functions of the organisation who are not allocated uniform and the conservation board members were viewed to be in the same category. The reason for limiting allocation was based on costs and consistency. While we accept Conservation Board members attend events and sometimes undertake field trips the frequency of these activities is relatively low compared to field rangers. Name badges are also seen as an adequate identifier for non-uniformed staff and volunteers in the majority of circumstances at events.

We did have a discussion about a basic hard-shell jacket which has similar identity and compatibility with the field uniform for non-uniformed staff however this hasn't been developed further due to cost considerations. This option hasn't been completely rejected so may be something DOC investigates in the future?

Yours sincerely

**Roy Grose** 

**Director Operations** 

Northern South Island Region