

31 January 2024

Stephen Prendergast

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Tēnā koe Stephen

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 20 November 2023, in which you asked for:

“For the period 20 June to present please supply all correspondence between either of the minister/DOC and MBIE, or the minister/DOC and Te Arawhiti where the subject or contents include the terms RAL Concession or Whakapapa concession or Turoa concession or concession notification or concession requirements or concession advice.”

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). This letter provides our final response, following our decision letter of 30 January 2024. As indicated, I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of all the information;
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs;
- section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege;
- section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice; and
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	22 June 2023	Email correspondence between DOC and Te Arawhiti and DOC and MBIE	Released in part - Section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(b)(ii)
2	28 July 2023	Departmental Briefing between DOC and Minister of Conservation	Released in part - Section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(j), 9(2)(g)(i), 9(2)(f)(iv)

These documents are attached. 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.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Vicki Crosbie, National Permissions Advisor by email to vcrosbie@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachael Jordan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachael Jordan
Principal Advisor, Regulatory Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai