



19-E-0563 / DOC 6053987

2 September 2019

Dianne Maxwell
via *FYI.org.nz*

Dear Ms Maxwell

Thank you for the Official Information Act (OIA) request you submitted to the Office of Hon Eugenie Sage on 7 August 2019. The Minister has transferred your request to the Department of Conservation to provide a response.

You requested the following:

1. *How many domestic animals have been killed in areas where aerial 1080 drops have occurred in the past 20 years; please list the animal type, the area it occurred and the date. This is to include pets, farm animals, and others;*
2. *How many native birds and other species have been killed in areas where aerial 1080 drops have occurred in the past 20 years; please list the species name, the area it occurred and the date.*

Before we consider your request we set out the following contextual information as it may assist your understanding of some of the issues you have raised.

Why DOC uses 1080

1080 is a natural biodegradable compound – it dilutes rapidly to harmless levels in waterways and is broken by microorganisms in soil. It therefore provides an effective method of controlling introduced predators such as rats, mice and possums, as well as stoats (through secondary poisoning). 1080 is suited for use in New Zealand owing to the fact that New Zealand has no native land mammals (except for bats). Therefore, 1080 can be used in New Zealand without having a negative impact on native species at a population level.

Aerial 1080 operations are the only effective option currently available to us to control pest populations in vast, remote or rugged areas (such as areas covered in thick forests). Trapping in these areas is not feasible because of the number of traps needed and the trap lines that would have to be cut, walked regularly and maintained.

1080 is saving our native species

Monitoring studies and peer-reviewed research carried out over more than 20 years show that aerial 1080 operations are highly effective at keeping predator numbers down and protecting our native species.

For example, monitoring results have confirmed that up to 60% of kiwi chicks are likely to survive to breeding age in areas with pest control, whereas only around 5% of kiwi chicks will survive to breeding age in areas without pest control.

Whoio monitoring results have shown that three times as many whoio ducklings are likely to survive to fledge in areas with pest control, in comparison to ducklings in habitats that do not have pest control.

More information about how 1080 helps to save our native species can be found on the following webpage on the Department's website:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/proof-that-1080-is-saving-our-species/>

Your OIA request

The Department does not hold information about all domestic animals, native birds and other species that might have died as a result of consuming 1080 bait pellets.

This is because the Department is not the only organisation that carries out aerial 1080 operations and it is not the Department's role to monitor all animal deaths that are a result of aerial 1080 operations. Aerial 1080 operations are also carried out by other organisations such as regional councils, territorial authorities and companies such as OSPRI.

To the extent it is captured, the information you seek is set out in reports that are published on the website of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The EPA requires all operators that carry out aerial 1080 operations to submit post-operational reports on aerial 1080 operation that they carry out in New Zealand. These reports include information about recorded non-target animal deaths that are likely to be a result of ingesting 1080 bait pellets. You can access these aerial operators' reports via the following link:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/resources-and-publications/1080-aerial-operators-reports/>

The EPA also publishes annual reports on the aerial use of 1080 each year. These reports contain incident summaries of non-target animal deaths that will have been reported in the post-operational reports submitted by aerial operators. These annual reports can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/resources-and-publications/monitoring-and-reporting/?tag=322>

We are therefore refusing your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 because the information you requested is publicly available.

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. If you wish to discuss our response to your request with us, please contact us by email at replies@doc.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Amber Bill
Director Threats – Biodiversity