



Date

<File Ref>

Al Morrison
Director General
The Department of Conservation
Conservation House – Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
PO Box 10420
Wellington

Dear Mr Morrison

Department of Conservation expenditure on pest management

As you are aware, my office is conducting an investigation into the benefits and risks of the use of 1080 for pest mammal control. It is anticipated the investigation will result in a report that will help to inform the current debate around the use of 1080, and allow decision makers to make the best decisions possible.

As part of the investigation, I would like to gain an understanding of the Department of Conservation's expenditure on the management of pest mammals. In particular, I would like to know how funding for pest mammal control and research is spread around the country.

Consequently, could you please supply my office with the following information:

1. How much money does each conservancy spend on pest control, separated into possums and other species?
2. For each conservancy, how much of the expenditure in 1. (above) is for operational costs and how much is for other costs such as salaries and overheads?
3. For each conservancy, how much of the expenditure is for mainland sites and how much is for offshore sites (such as pest removal or control on islands)?
4. How much does the Department spend on research into pest management each year? This may include research into control techniques, or the impacts of pest control activities on target or non-target species or ecological processes?

Yours sincerely





28 September 2012

Al Morrison
Director General
Department of Conservation
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Dear Al

PCE report on *Evaluating the use of 1080: Predators, poisons and silent forests*

In June last year I released the report *Evaluating the use of 1080: Predators, poisons and silent forests*. My purpose in writing to you is to seek information on what has been done, or is intended to be done, in response to this report. Understanding how our reports are used allows us to evaluate the impact of our recommendations and improve our processes and results.

I am interested in the Department's use of 1080 in the coming financial year and whether this is expected to increase on the previous year. Therefore, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information:

Overall budget 2012/2013

- What is DOC's total budget for pest control for this financial year?
- What is DOC's total budget for 1080 for this financial year?

Overall budget 2013/2014

- What is DOC's total budget for pest control for the 2013/2014 financial year?
- What is DOC's total budget for 1080 for the 2013/2014 financial year?

Breakdown by conservancy 2012/2013. For your convenience, we note that this information was provided to us for the 2009/2010 financial year under the file reference: *DOCDM-698907- PCE report ex 200910 Production Budgets*.

For each conservancy, please provide:

- The conservancy's total budget for this financial year?
- The conservancy's total budget for pest control for this financial year?
- The conservancy's budget for 1080 for this financial year?

Breakdown by conservancy 2013/2014

For each conservancy, please provide:

- o The conservancy's total budget for the 2013/2014 financial year?
- o The conservancy's total pest control budget for the 2013/2014 financial year?
- o The conservancy's total budget for 1080 for the 2013/2014 financial year?

If the Department is planning to use more 1080 in the coming year, what are the reasons why? In your response, please identify which of the following factors may have affected 1080 use: masting cycles, changes in community support, changes in you or your Department's understanding of the benefits and risks of 1080. Please add any other reasons. More specifically, how does the Department manage mast years including predicting, planning and funding?

If the Department is not planning on using more 1080 in the coming year, what are the key barriers? In your response, please identify which of the following possible factors may have affected 1080 use: masting cycles, lack of funding, other priorities (please identify), and community opposition. Please add any other reasons.

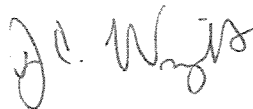
In addition, are there any private concession holders working with you to fund the application of 1080 on conservation land? If so, please identify the type of concession holder and the total amount of funding.

1080 at the local level

I am also interested in the views of Department area office managers on the use of 1080 and what they see as being the key barriers to using 1080 at the local level. Therefore, I will be surveying all area managers over the next month. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the survey.

I would appreciate a reply by 26 October 2012. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to call my staff member leading this project, [REDACTED], on (04) [REDACTED] @pce.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Dr Jan Wright
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment

Department of Conservation Area Manager Survey: 1080 use

Did you read the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report *Evaluating the use of 1080: Predators, poisons and silent forests*?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

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.....

Has the report helped you/your office communicate with people about 1080? Please tick if relevant:

- We have not used the PCE report to communicate with people
- We have used the PCE report to communicate with the General Public
- We have used the PCE report to communicate with opponents of 1080
- We have used the PCE report to communicate with supporters of 1080
- We have used the PCE report to communicate with others (please specify)

.....
.....
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Does your Area Office use 1080?

- Yes
- No
- Comments

.....
.....
.....

Who makes the decision on whether to use 1080, and how much 1080, in your office?

- Area manager
- Biodiversity or pest management staff
- Joint decision area manager and staff

Comments:

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.....
.....

Do you consider you have sufficient information to evaluate the benefits and risks of 1080 use in your area?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

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.....
.....

Are you likely to use more 1080 in the future?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

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.....
.....

Would you like to use more 1080 in the future?

- Yes
- No

Comments:

.....
.....
.....

What are the main barriers to using more 1080 in your area (please rank with 1 being the most significant barrier and 5 being the least significant barrier?)

- Lack of funding
- Community opposition
- My colleagues and/or I are concerned about the potential for accidental poisoning of other species and waterways
- Other priorities. Please list in order of importance:

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- Other barriers. Please list in order of importance:

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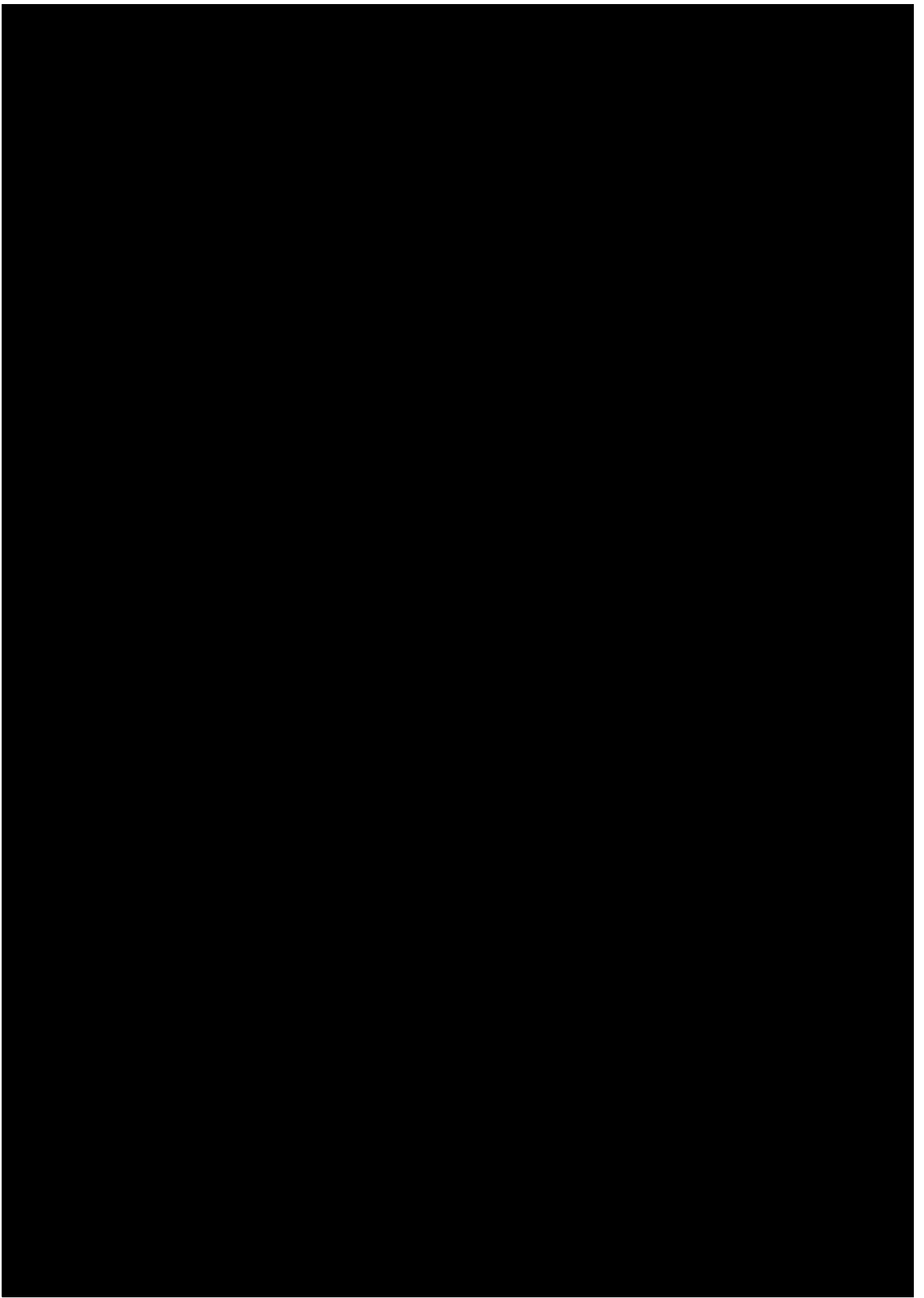
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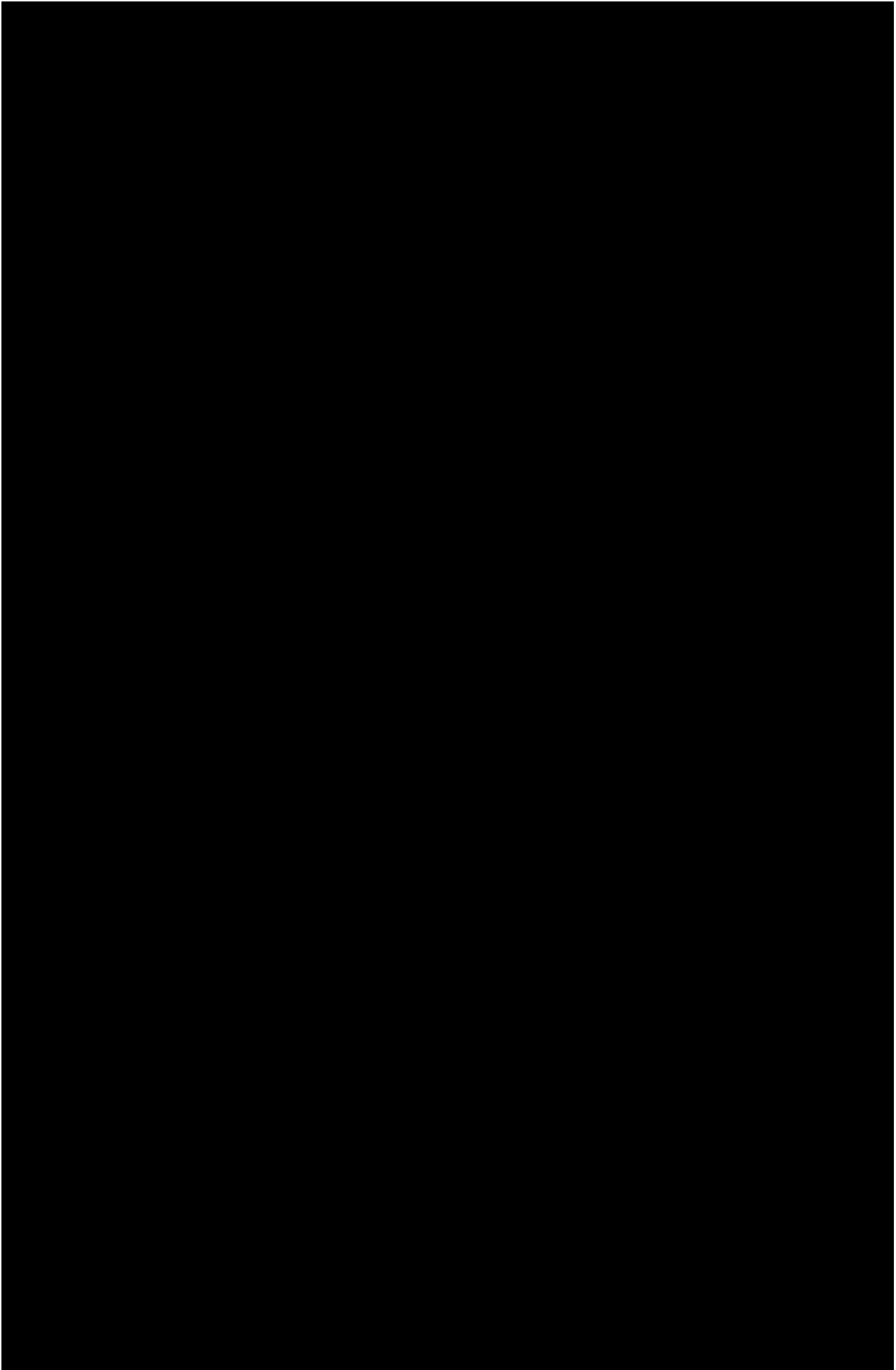
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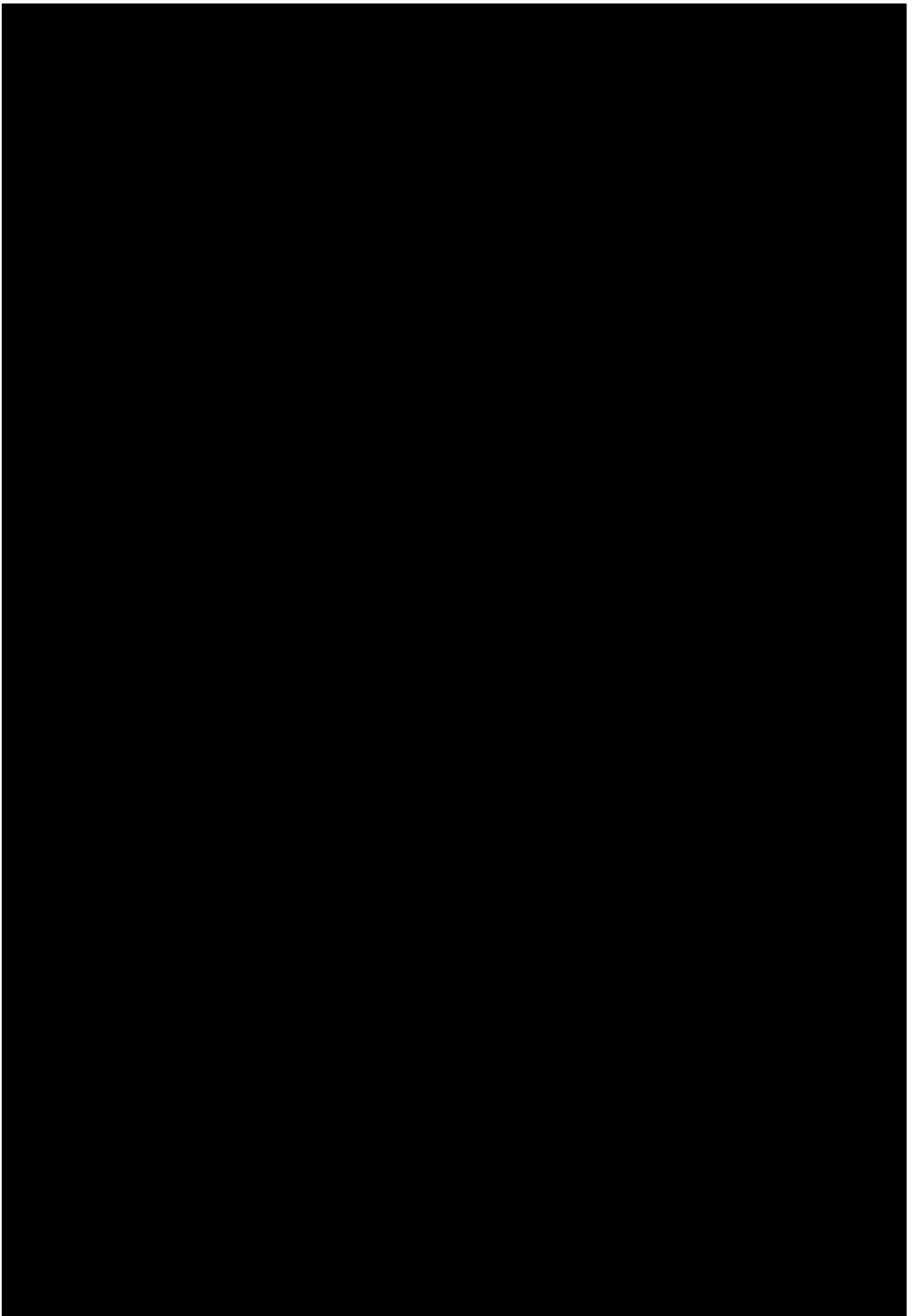
Would you like copies of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's report *Evaluating the use of 1080: Predators, poisons and silent forests* to distribute from your office?

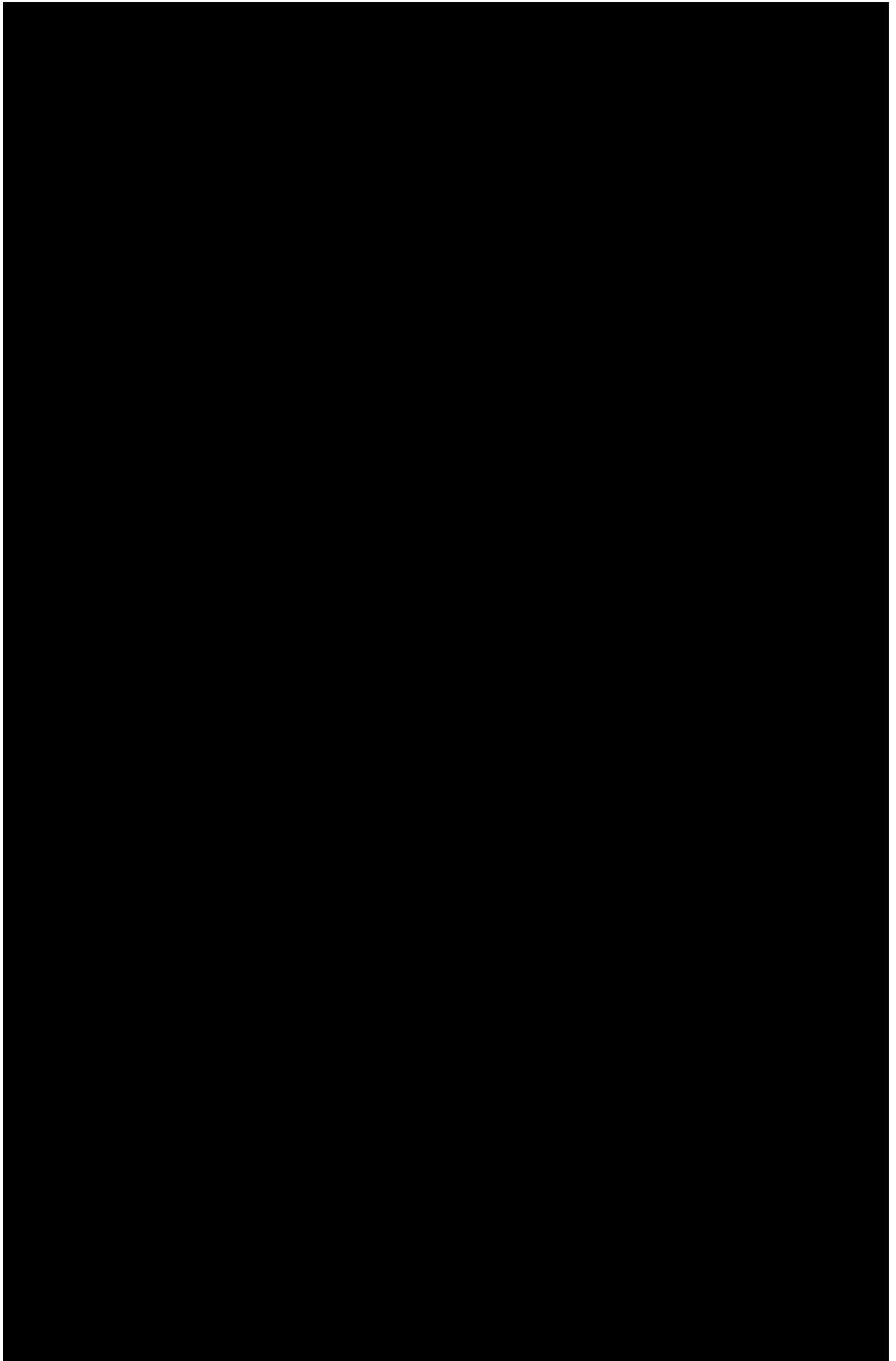
- Yes. Please state number of reports required.
- No

Thank you very much for your assistance.











17 February 2014

Lou Sanson
Director General
Department of Conservation
Conservation House - Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
18 - 32 Manners Street
Wellington 6011

Dear Lou

It is very pleasing to see the way in which DOC is gearing up to respond to the expected pest mast this year, and I thought the 'Battle for the Birds' brochure was outstanding.

I am writing about an aspect of mast events that has concerned me for a while – namely the ability to use 1080 to control irrupting mouse populations.

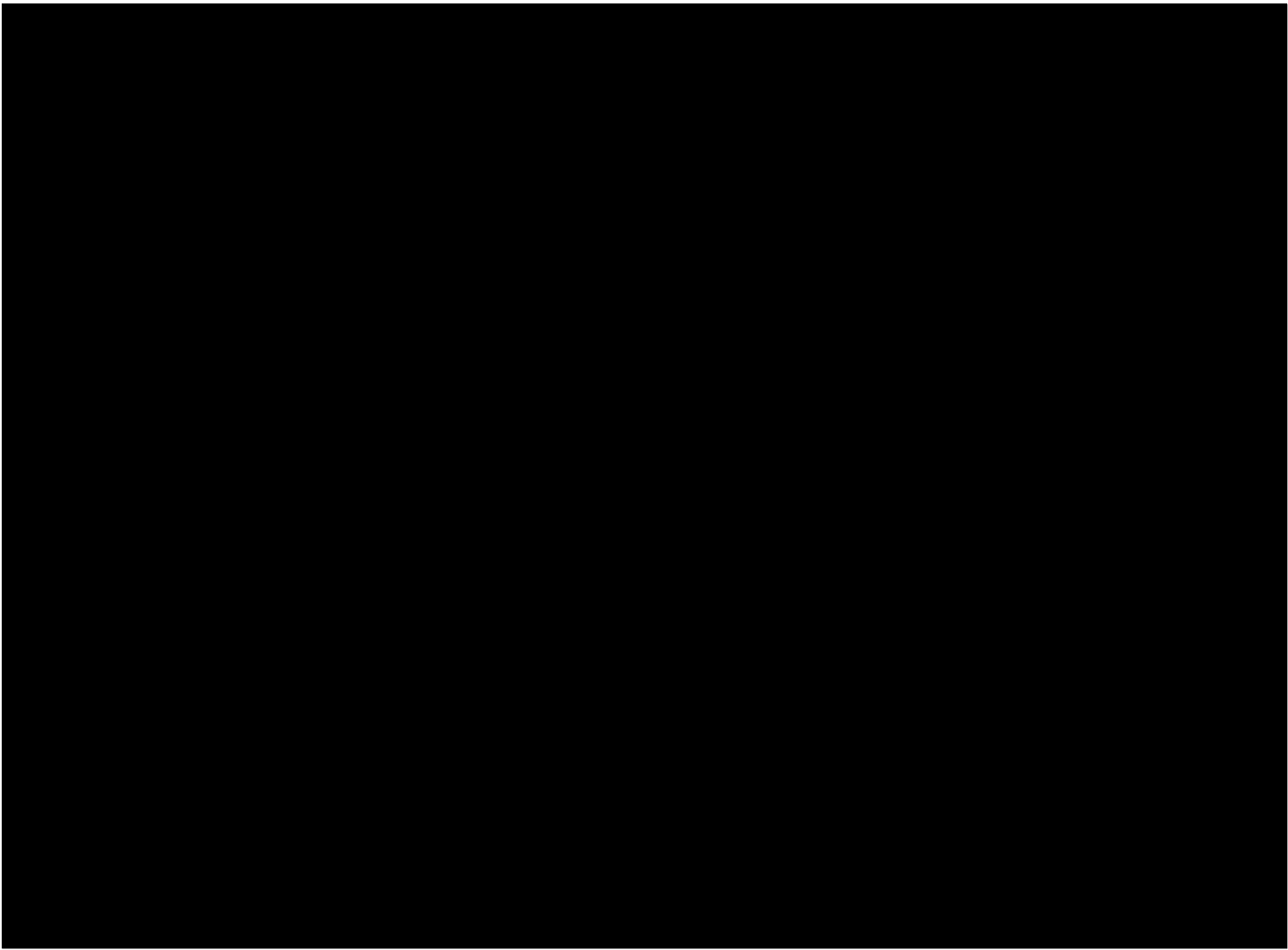
I have been informed that a mast in 'pure' beech forest is followed by irruptions of mice with few if any rats, and that the same applies to alpine grasses. It seems that knocking down these high mouse populations with 1080 is difficult for a number of reasons; for instance, the gestation period for mice is so short that the populations bounce back relatively fast.

If my information is correct, then this great challenge you face becomes even greater. I would appreciate learning more about this issue and the ways in which DOC is planning to deal with it. At face value, I cannot think of a more urgent priority for scientific research.

There is no need for a formal reply to this letter. I would be very happy to come to your office for a briefing.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jan Wright
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment



From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@pce.parliament.nz]
Sent: Friday, 12 November 2010 3:52 p.m.
To: npca@xtra.co.nz
Subject: Current status of recommendations made in 1994 report on possum control

Dear [redacted]

As discussed over the phone, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment is preparing a report on the use of 1080.

As part of this work we are interested in assessing the current status of recommendations made in a 1994 report on possum control by the Commissioner. We would very much appreciate your advice on where those recommendations now stand.

By way of background, in 1994 the previous Commissioner Dr Helen Hughes published a report entitled *Possum Management in New Zealand* (PDF attached). In the report she concluded that while it is not advisable to rely on single toxins to manage possums, the use of 1080 must continue to control bovine tuberculosis as well as protect native forests from possum damage. She made a total of 34 recommendations, which addressed both the way 1080 is applied, and how the wider pest management sector is organised.

Since the release of that report many things have changed – some of the organisations differ, the control parameters have been tightened (particularly following the re-assessment of 1080 by the Environmental Risk Management Authority in 2007), the application methods have been refined and further scientific research has added to the understanding 1080 and its effects. There has also been considerable development in maximising the benefits of 1080 use by targeting rodents and stoats as well as possums.

To help us determine the extent of change since the 1994 report, we would be grateful if you could go through the recommendations made therein and comment whether you think each has been implemented, and if so how, and if not why not. To do this I have attached a word document with the conclusions and recommendations. Please type your response beneath each one. If there are any that are not applicable to you, or that you don't know anything about, please indicate which agency may be in a position to help. If you think that some of these recommendations have lost their relevance, please say so.

If you are not the right person to provide this information, please forward this email and its attachments on to the appropriate staff within your organisation.

To incorporate the information provided in the analysis for this current report, we would appreciate receiving your answers by 26 November 2010. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this request.

Yours sincerely

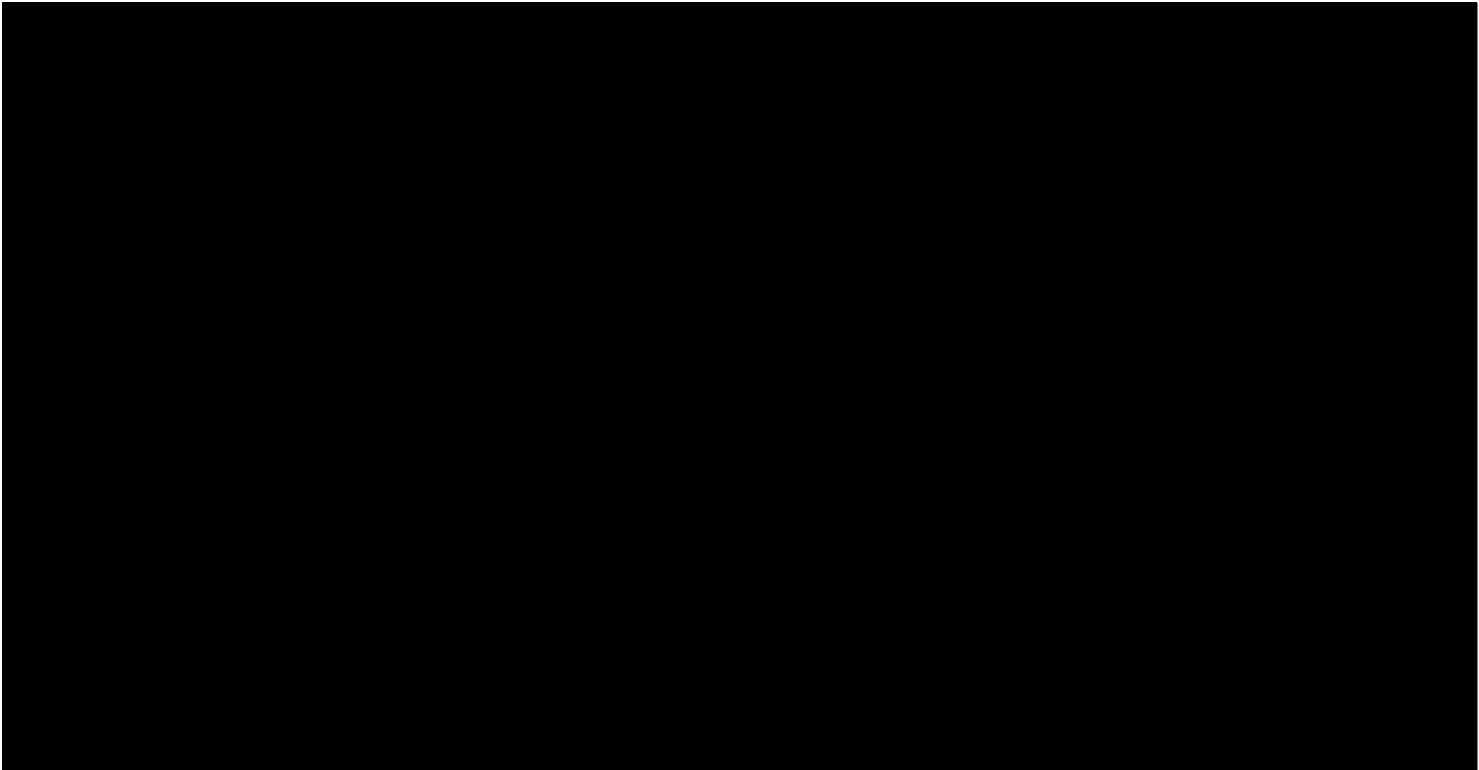
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
PO Box 10-241
WELLINGTON
Phone: +64 +4 471 1669

[REDACTED]@pce.parliament.nz

www.pce.parliament.nz



From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@pce.parliament.nz]
Sent: Friday, 12 November 2010 2:44 p.m.
To: [redacted]
Subject: Current status of recommendations made in 1994 report on possum control

Dear [redacted]

Thanks for coordinating our meeting with [redacted] at Mt Holdsworth yesterday. It was really valuable to get a feel for the procedures that follow such operations.

As discussed, we are interested in assessing the current status of recommendations made in a 1994 report on possum control by the Commissioner. We would very much appreciate your advice on where those recommendations now stand.

By way of background, in 1994 the previous Commissioner Dr Helen Hughes published a report entitled *Possum Management in New Zealand* (PDF attached). In the report she concluded that while it is not advisable to rely on single toxins to manage possums, the use of 1080 must continue to control bovine tuberculosis as well as protect native forests from possum damage. She made a total of 34 recommendations, which addressed both the way 1080 is applied, and how the wider pest management sector is organised.

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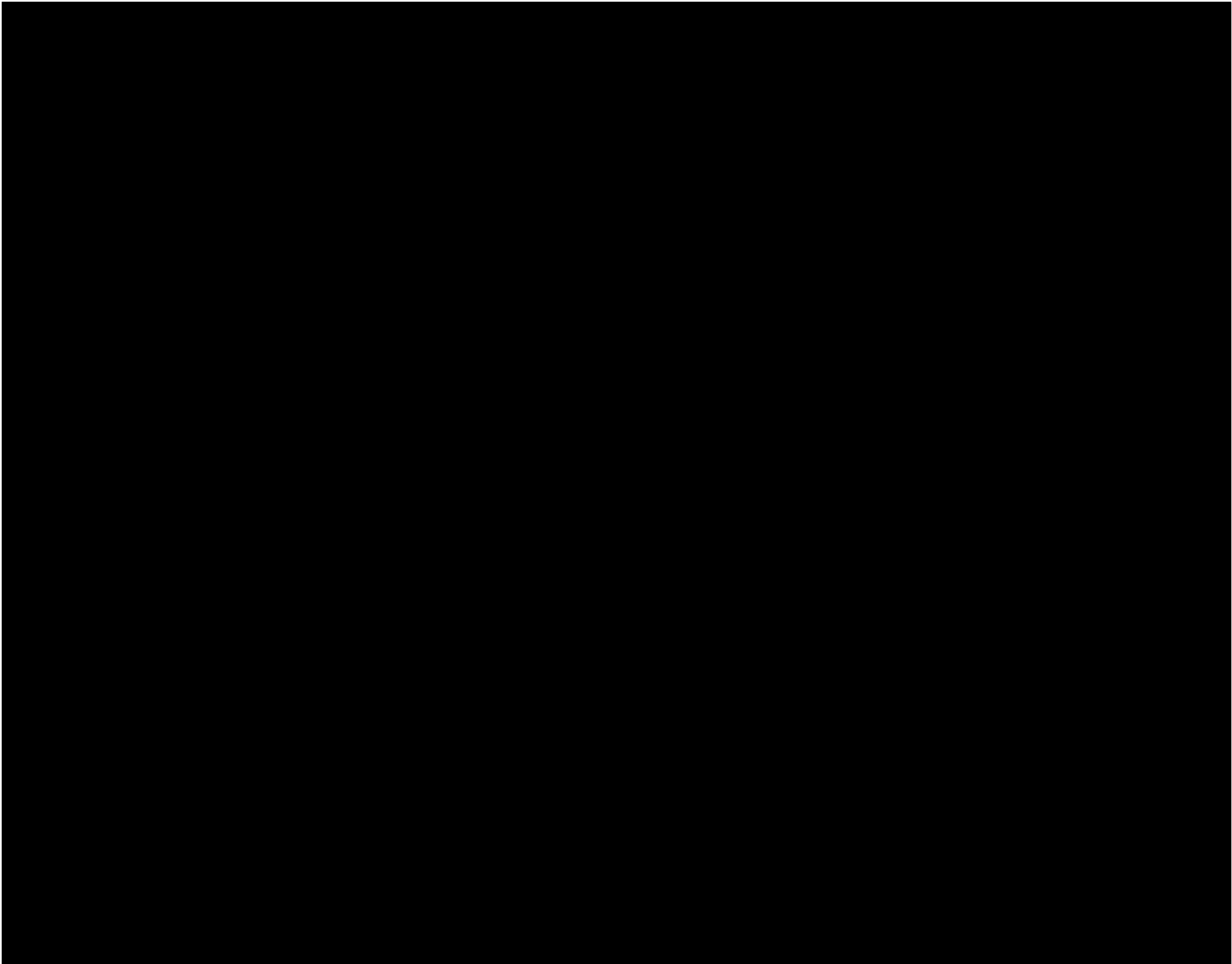
Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
PO Box 10-241
WELLINGTON
Phone: +64 +4 471 1669
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@pce.parliament.nz

www.pce.parliament.nz

Attention:

This e-mail (and attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged.



Page 1 of 10
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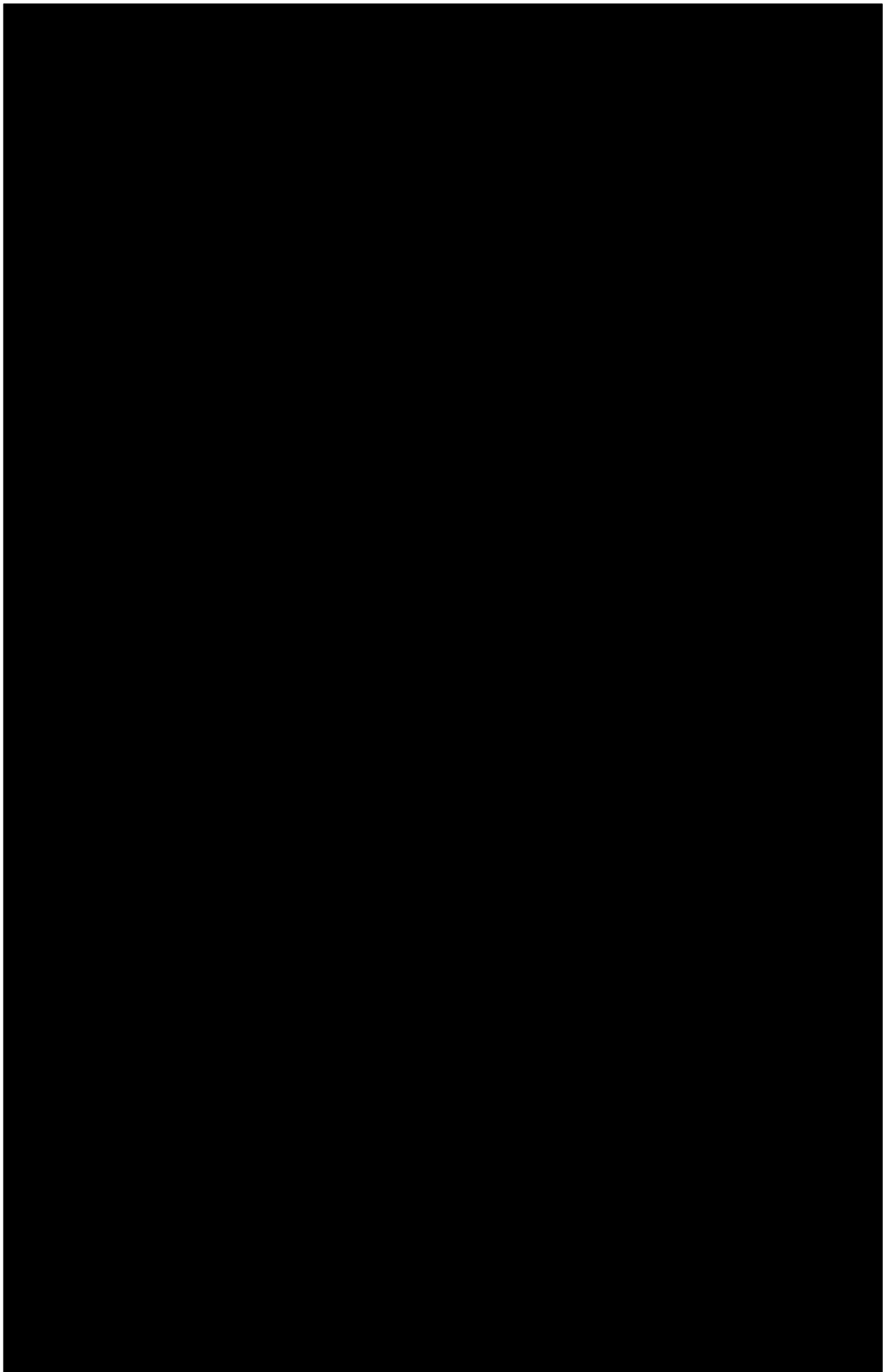
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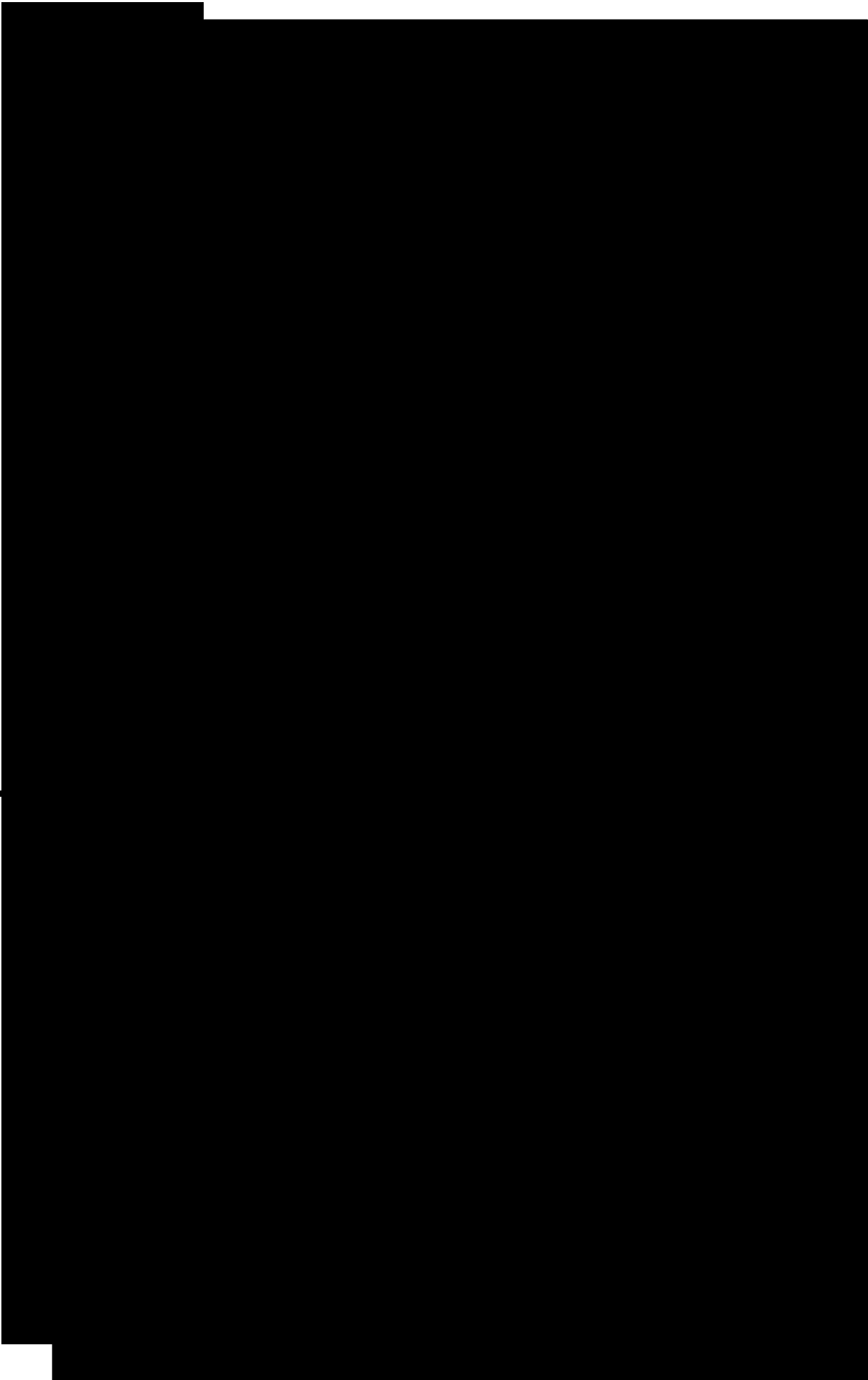
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Page 6 of 10
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(section 5.1.2; Appendix D)

Draft email to [REDACTED] 20 December 2010 v 3.0

Dear [REDACTED]

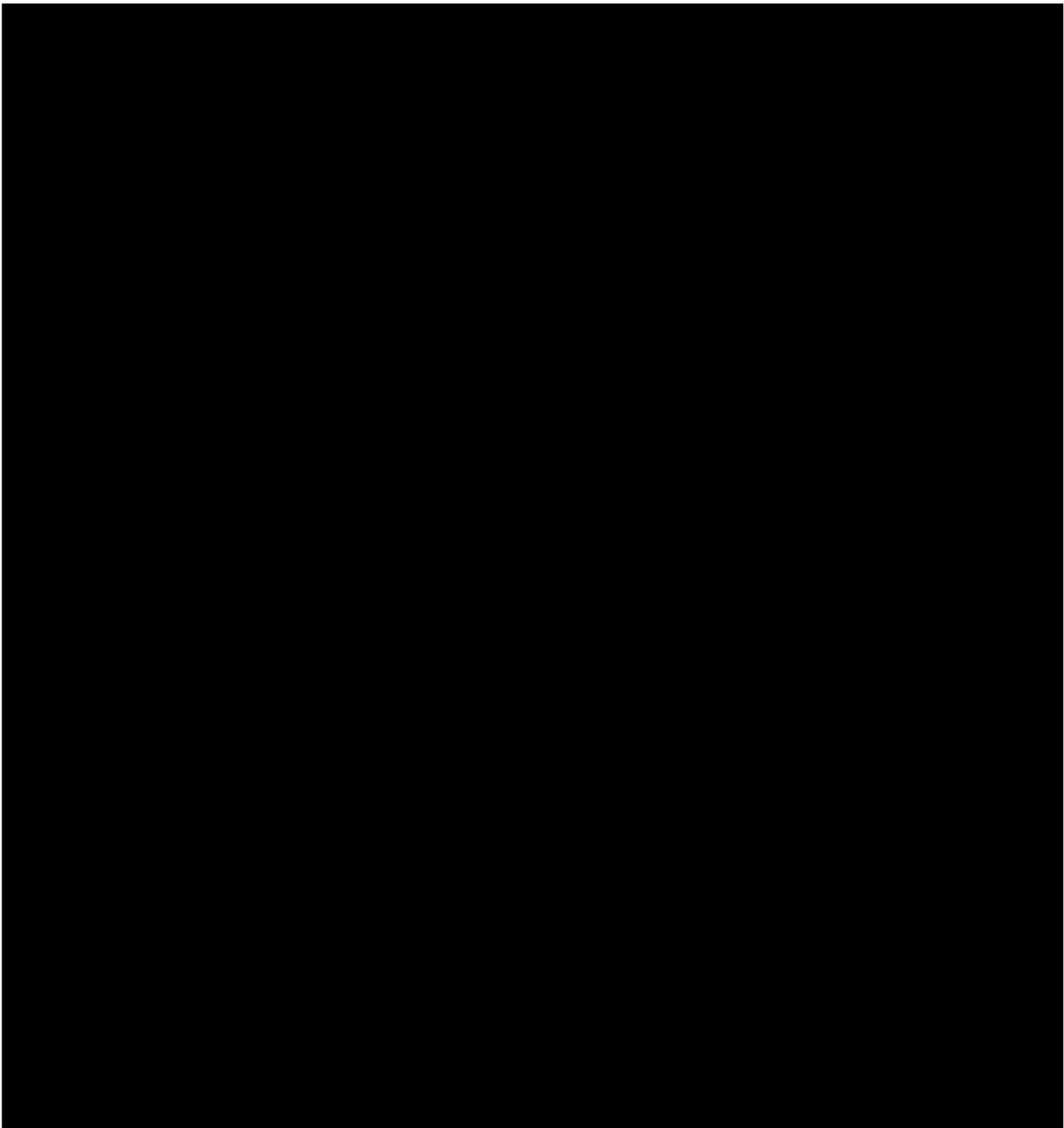
Thank you for the assistance you have provided to the 1080 project team so far, particularly organising staff to attend the Project Kaka operations and the meeting with the Pou Kura Taiao network.

However, there is one point I would like to raise. I thought it might be useful to clarify the authority that is delegated to me under the Environment Act. Under the Act, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and her delegated staff can investigate any matter relating to the environment that they see fit. The Commissioner and her staff are not required to give any reason for their questions and information requests, although any information received is treated as confidential as a protected disclosure under the Act. In addition, supplied information in any publication produced by the Commissioner is sent to the information provider for checking.

The Commissioner is meeting with the Director General of Conservation early in the New Year. If you have any concerns with the investigation that Commissioner is conducting, then please let me know, and I will ensure Dr Wright raises them with your Chief Executive Office.

Thank you again for your assistance, and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]





Draft email to [REDACTED] 20 December 2010 v 3.0

Dear [REDACTED]

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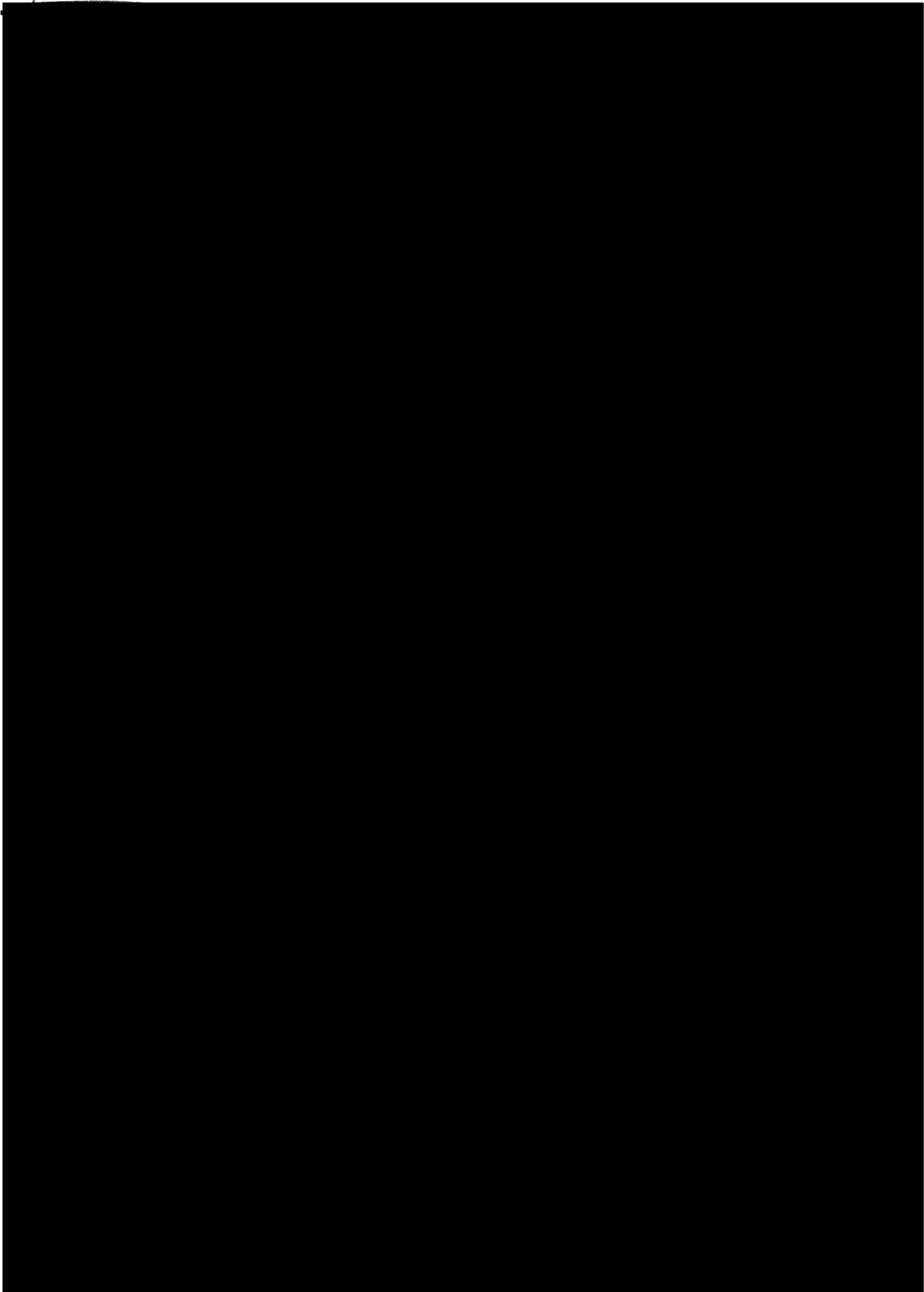
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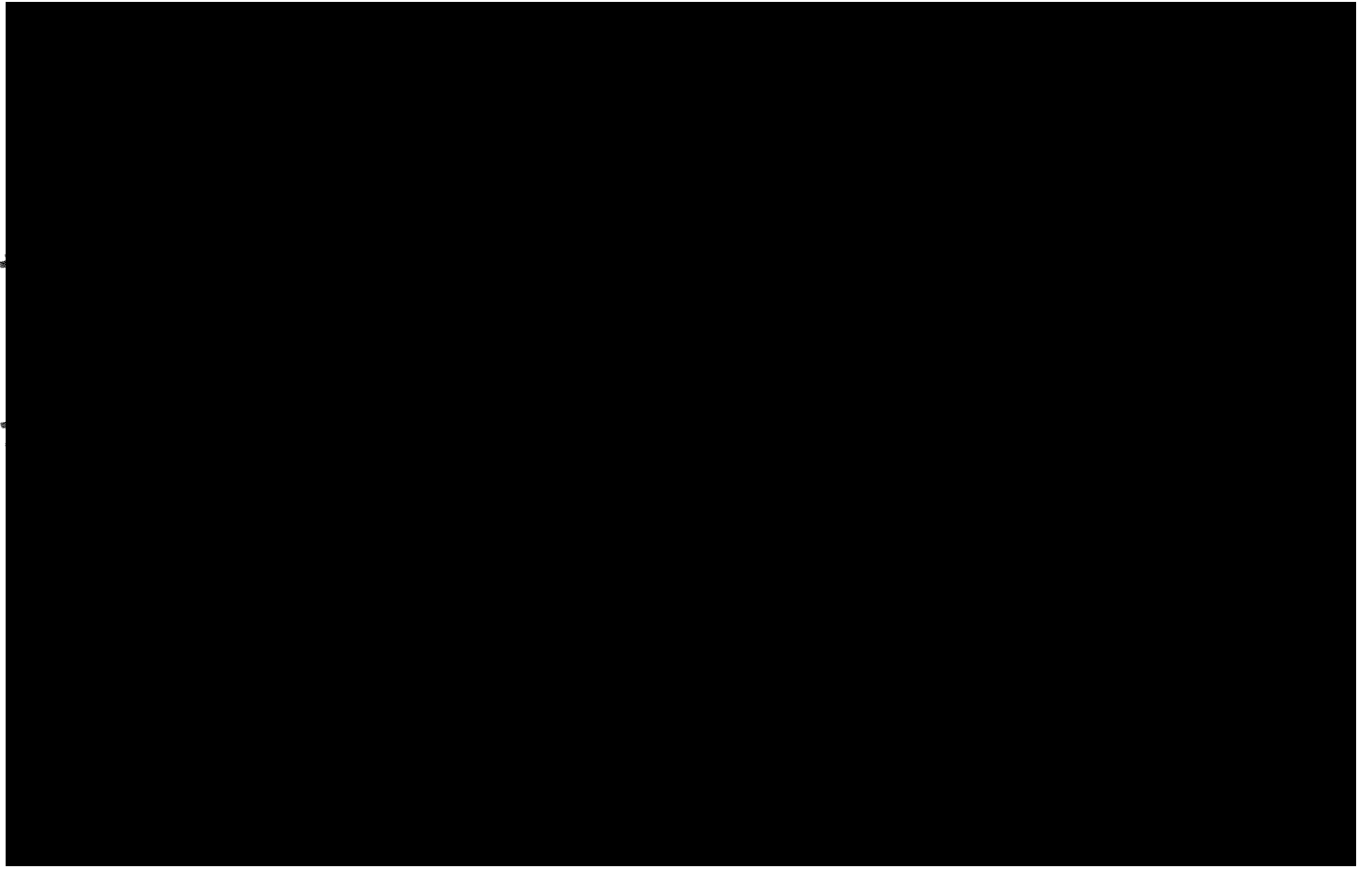
Thank you again for your assistance, and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]









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1. Introduction

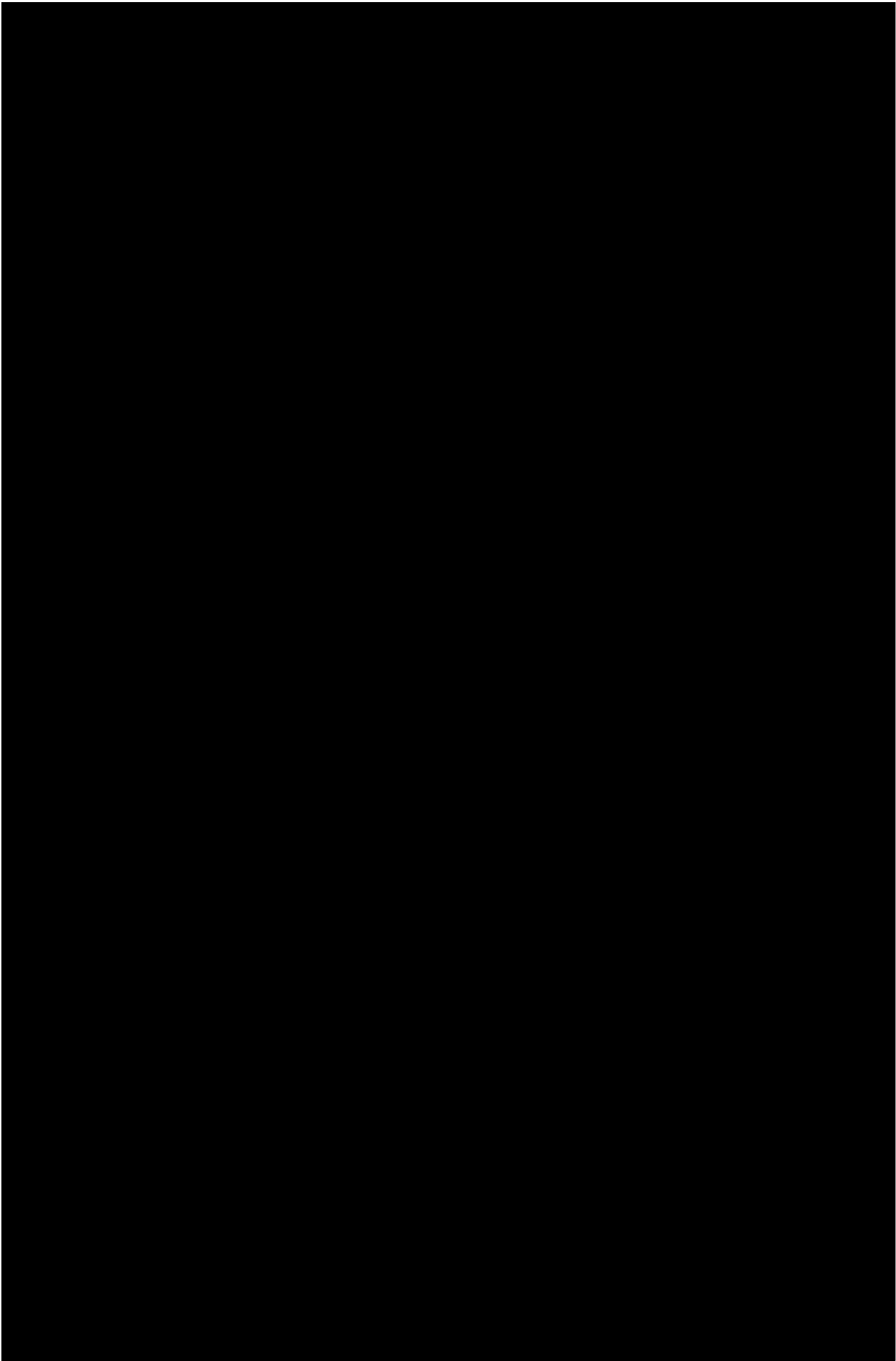
2. Methodology

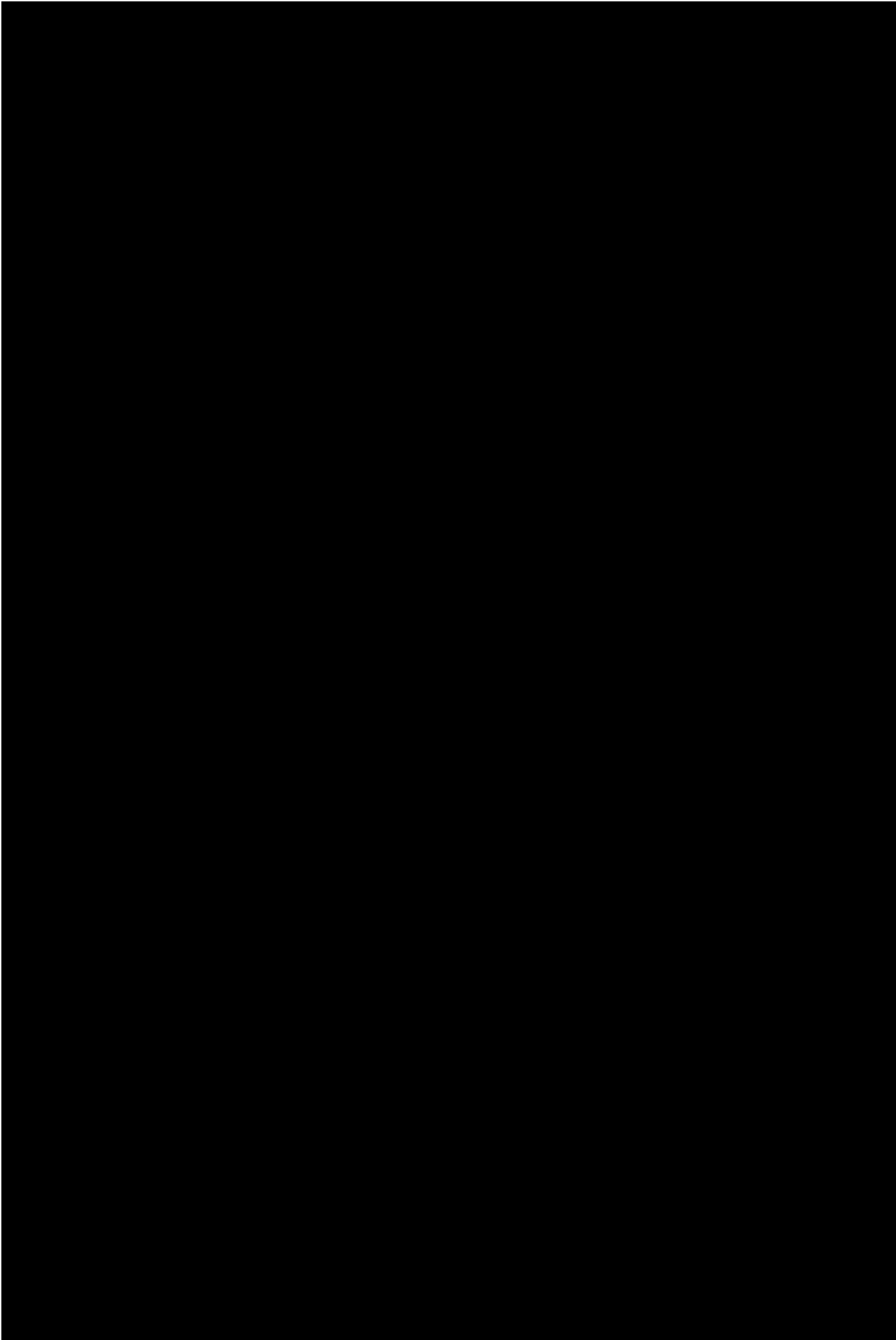
3. Results

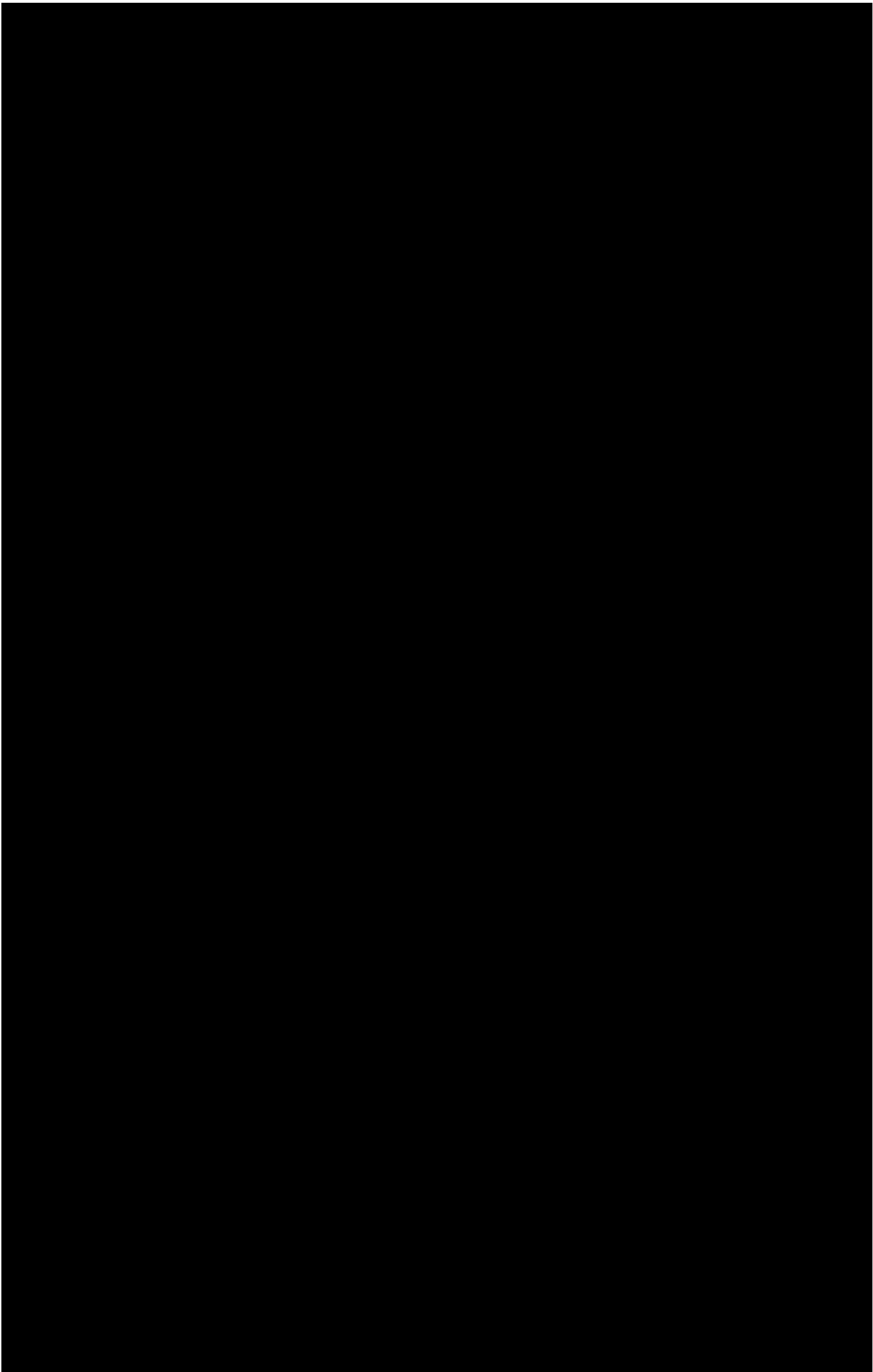
4. Discussion and Conclusion

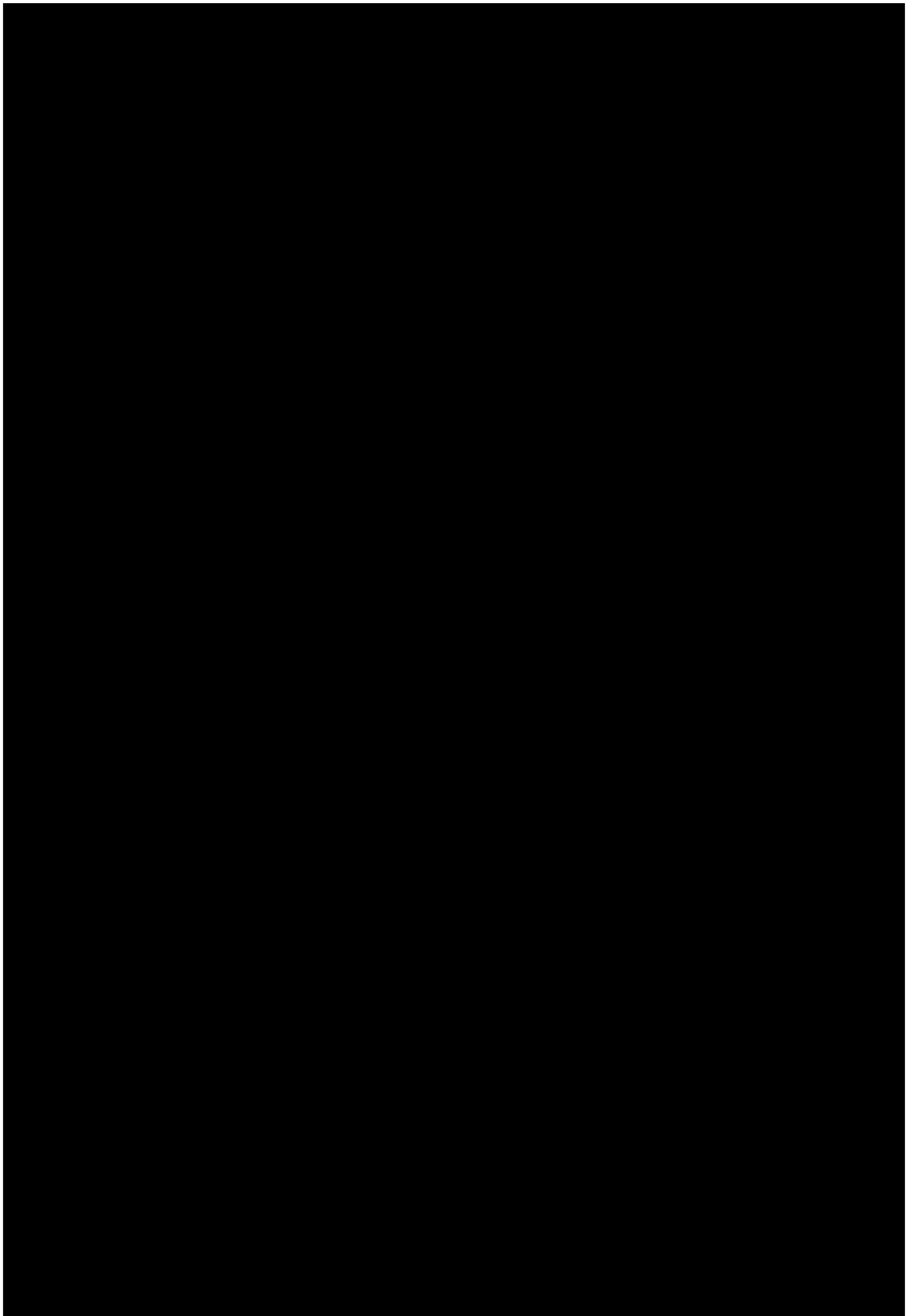
5. References

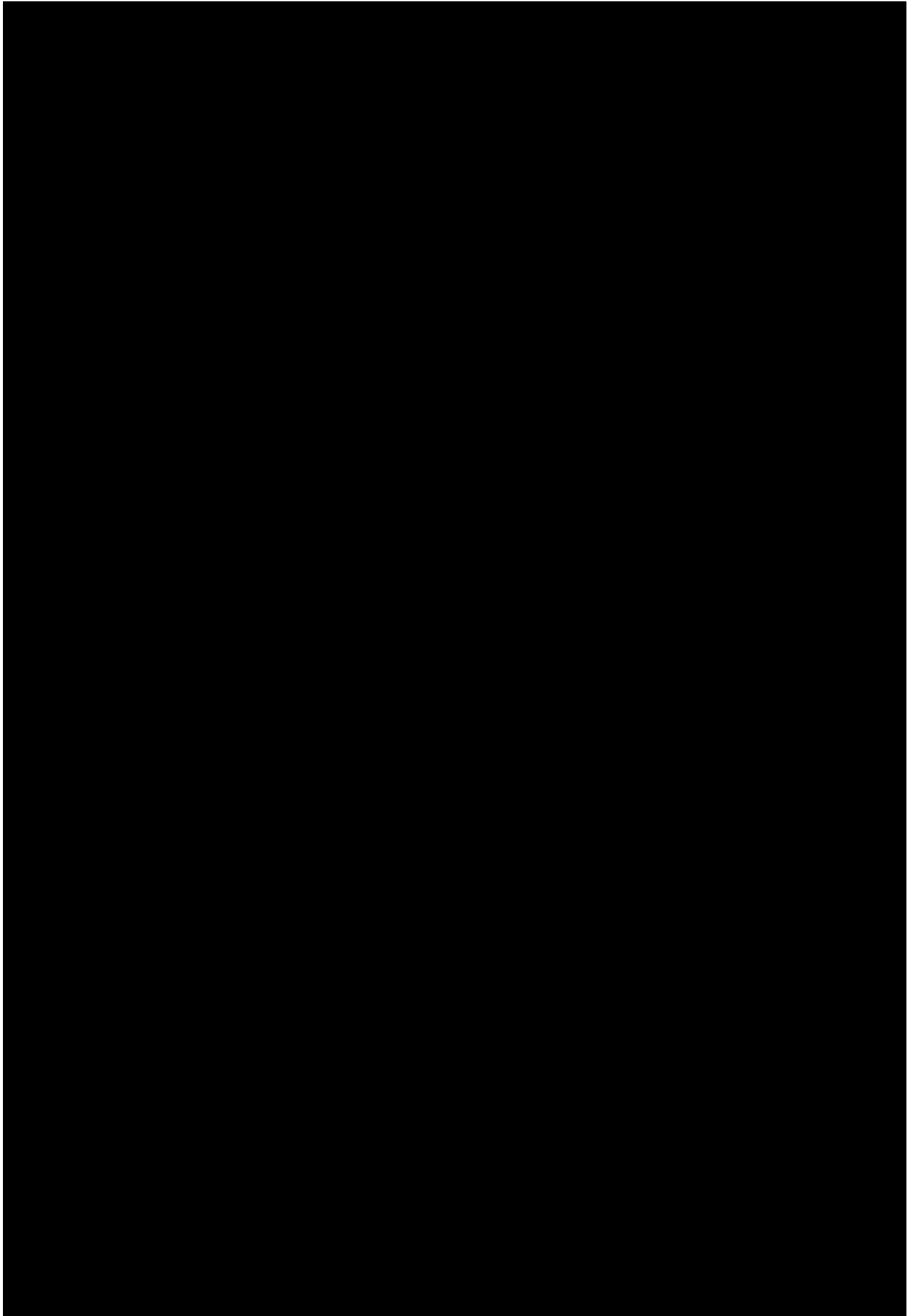
6. Appendix

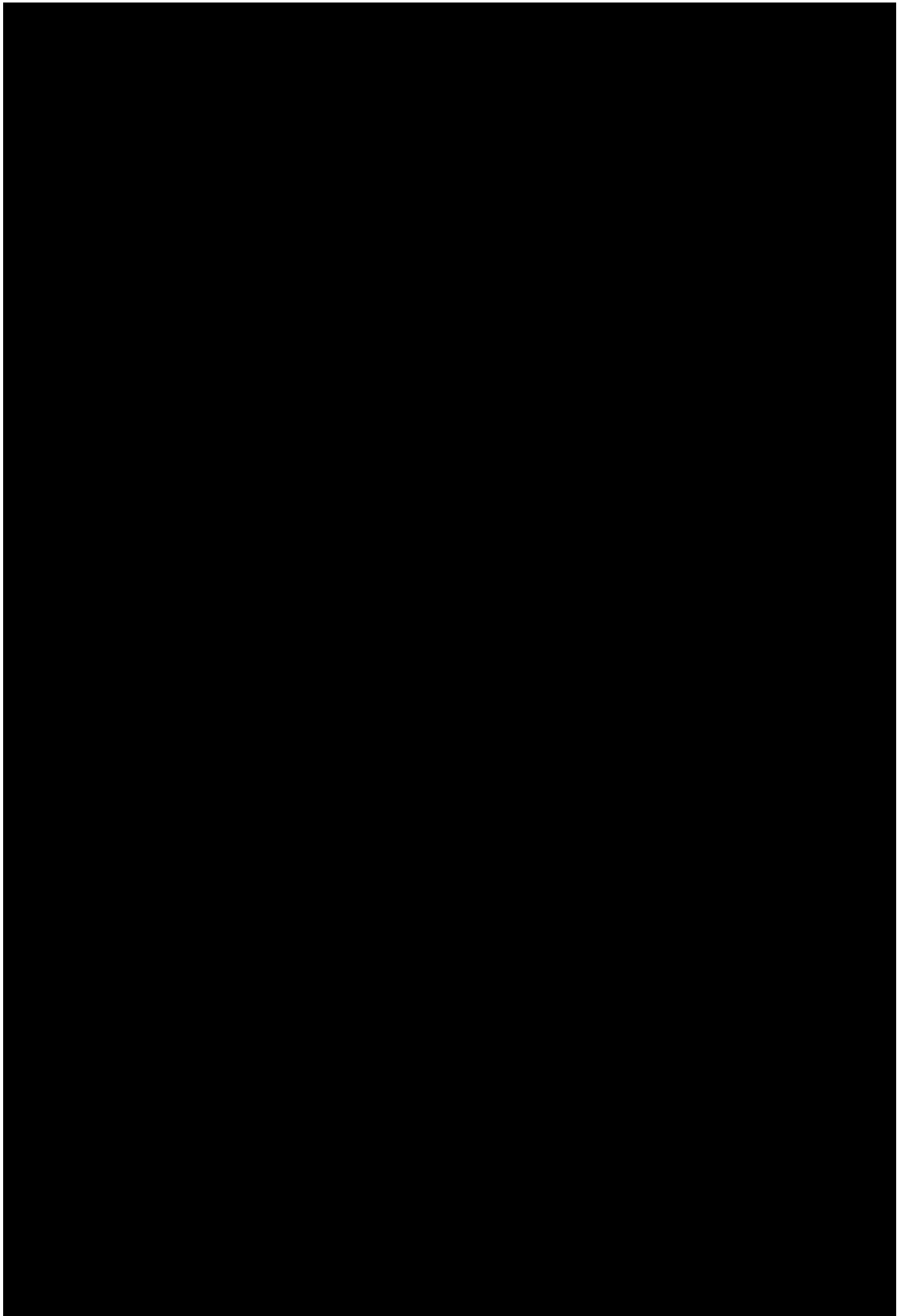


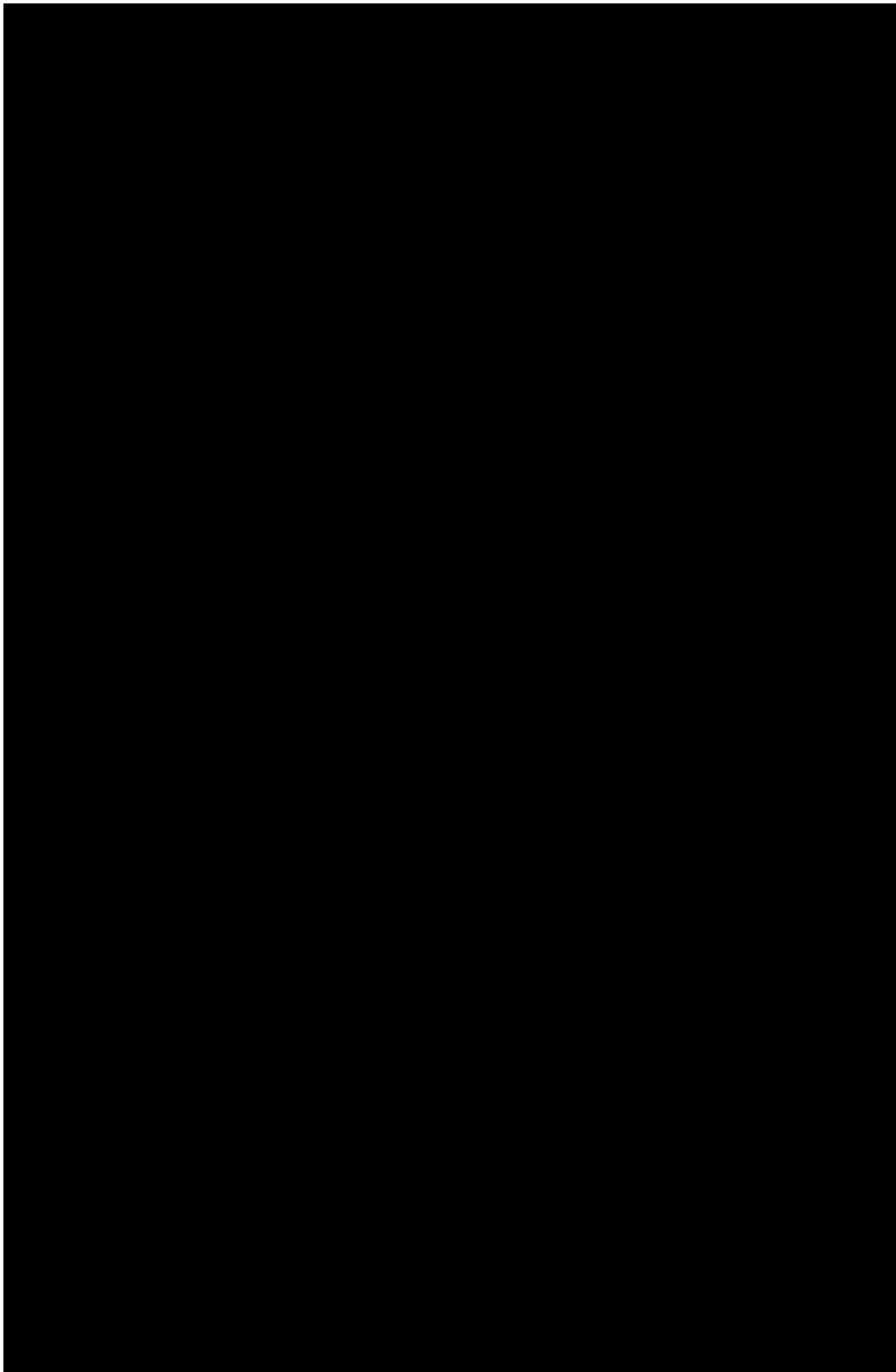


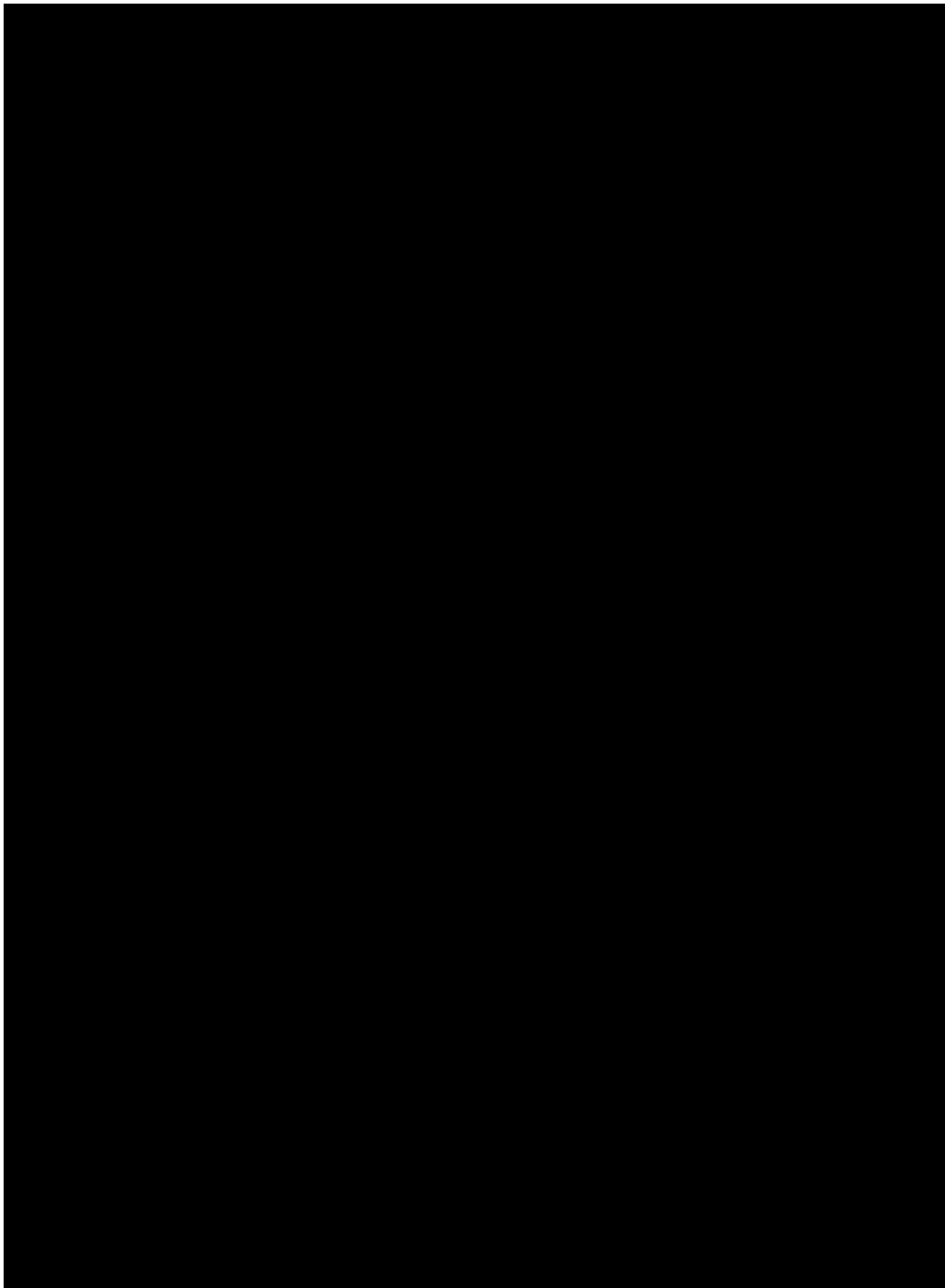


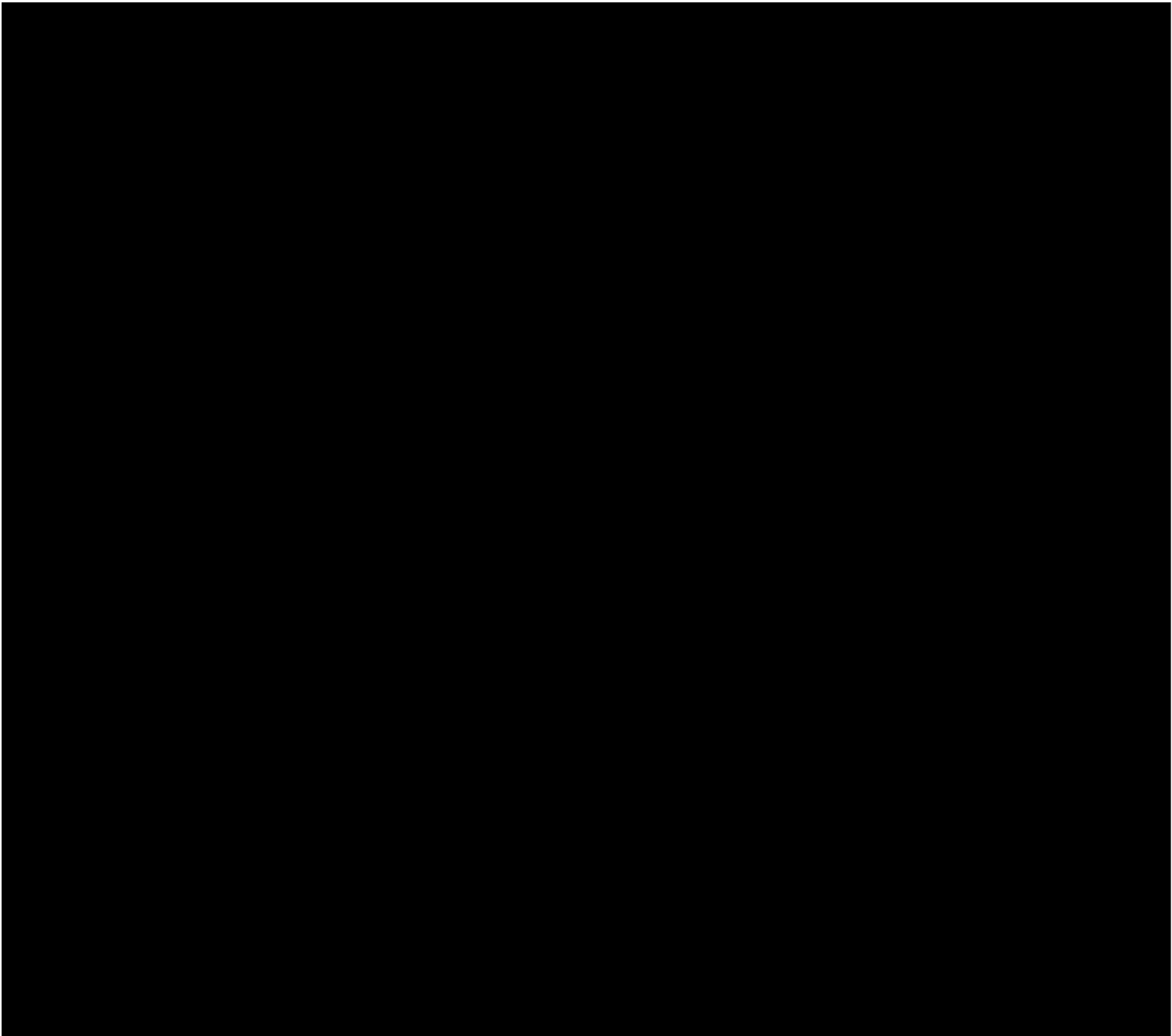




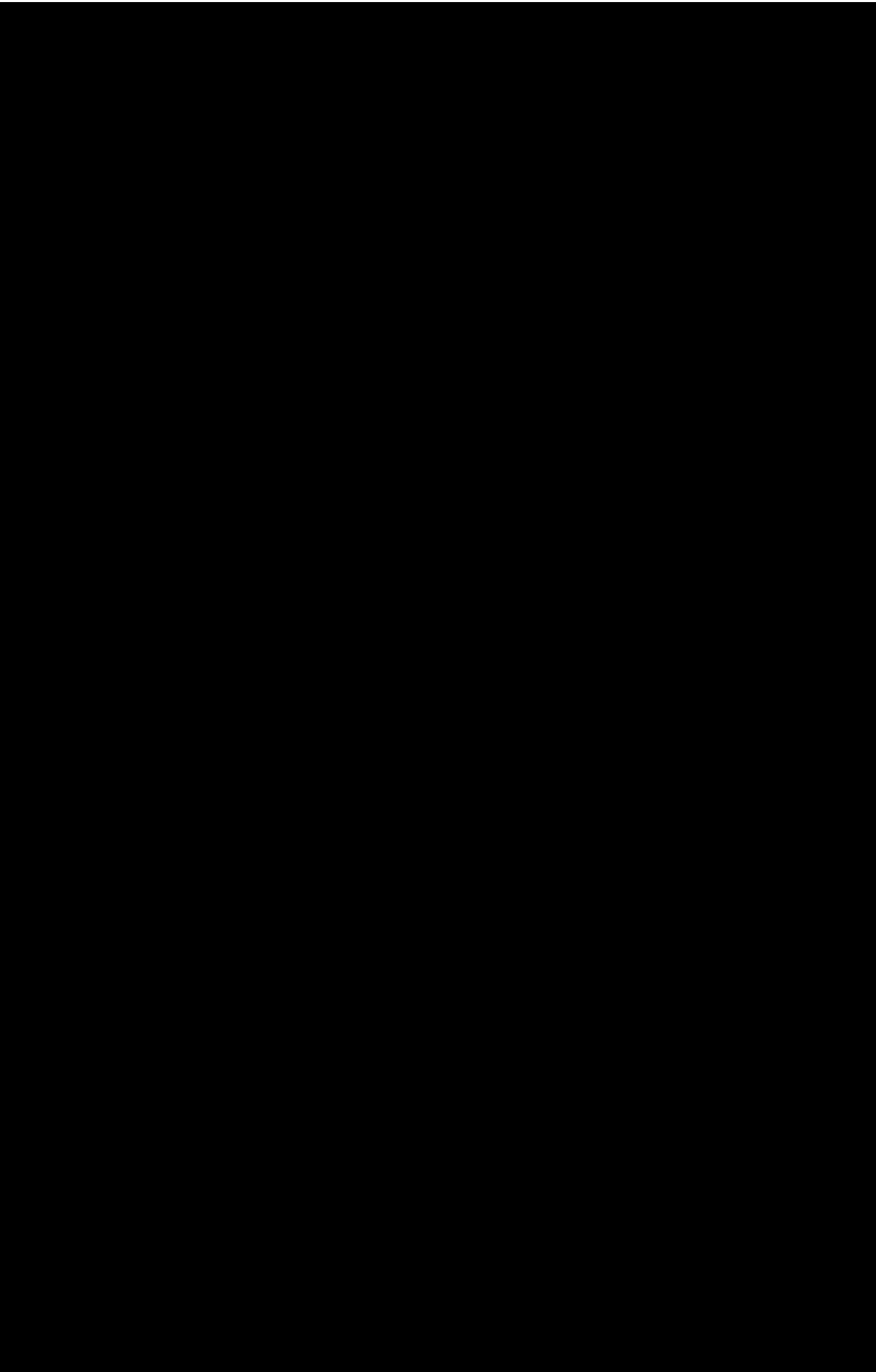


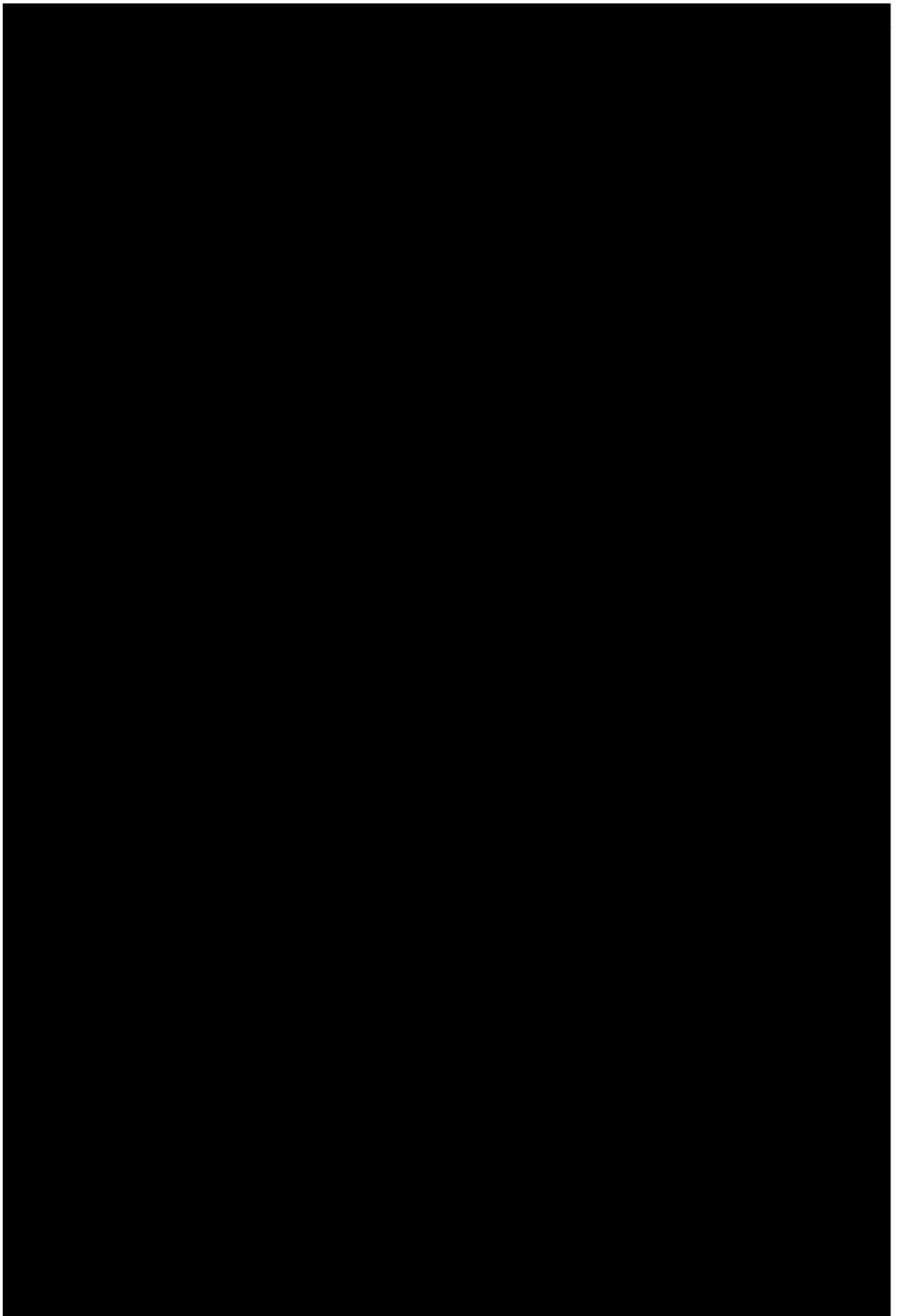


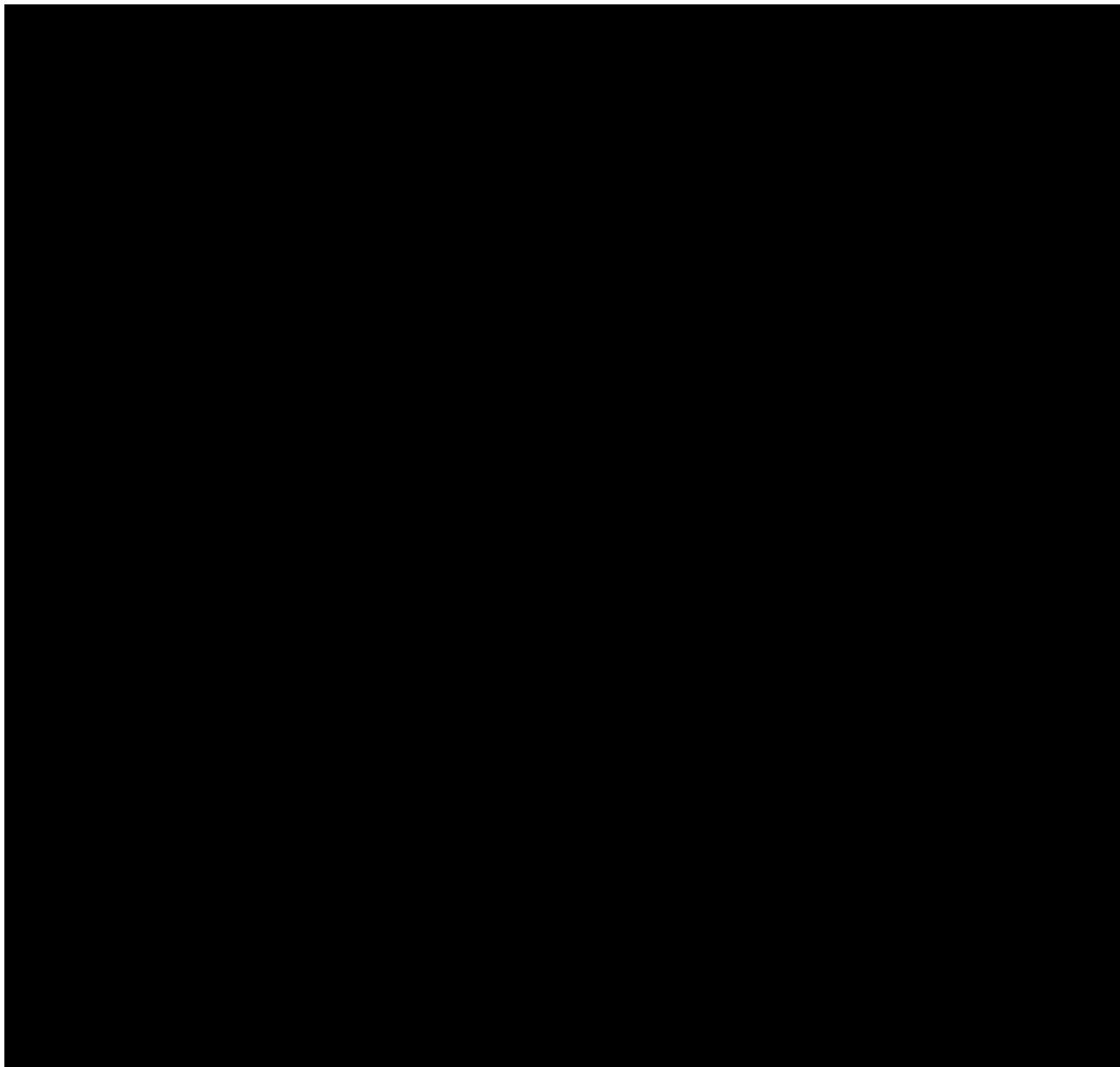














[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 11:18 a.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DOCDM-622258 - PCE material.doc

Hi [REDACTED]

I have arranged to attend the seminar on Tuesday and would be happy to meet with you and/or interested staff before or after.

Just to let you know, we don't actually work to a formal process, i.e. brief. But what I can tell you is why the Commissioner is interested in this topic.

As part of the Commissioner's function set out in s16 of the Environment Act 1986 her role includes

- the undertaking and encouragement of collection and dissemination of information relating to the environment and
- to encourage preventative measures and remedial actions for the protection of the environment.

In regards to the "1080 debate" the heightened media and political attention (e.g. activity on the Westcoast and Maori Party Bill) is suggesting that the Commissioner could play a useful role in informing the public as well as Members of Parliament on the wider issues around pest control.

To do this, we need to obtain reliable information on the threat mammalian pests pose to the New Zealand ecosystem, as well as figures on the risks and overall benefits of pest control.

As the debate seems to be centered on the aerial application of 1080, figures illustrating the benefit of this type of application would also be useful.

The timeframe we're working to is to get some good information together, with the aim to have something written early next year.

I hope this helps.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]



From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@pce.parliament.nz]

Sent: Friday, 6 August 2010 9:35 a.m.

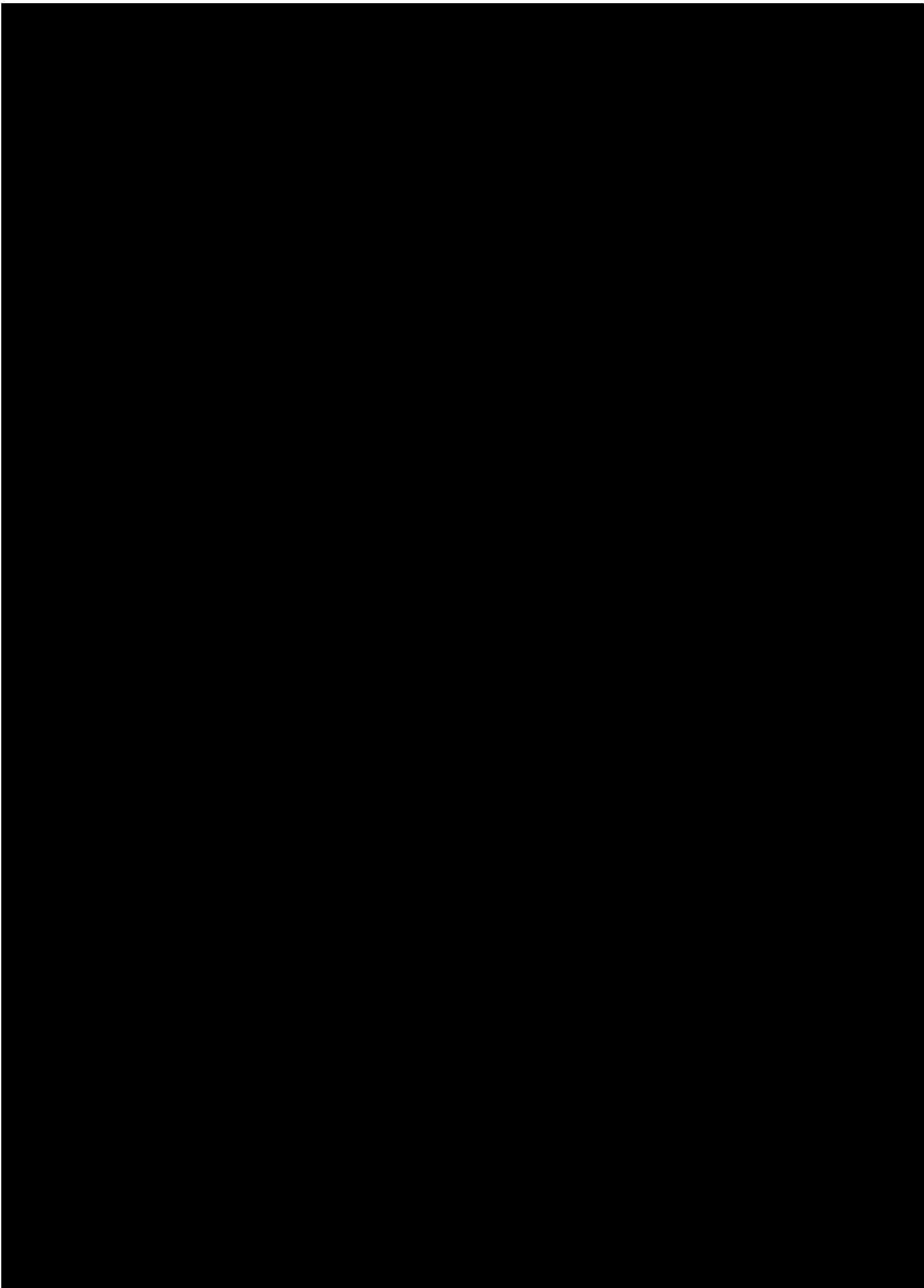
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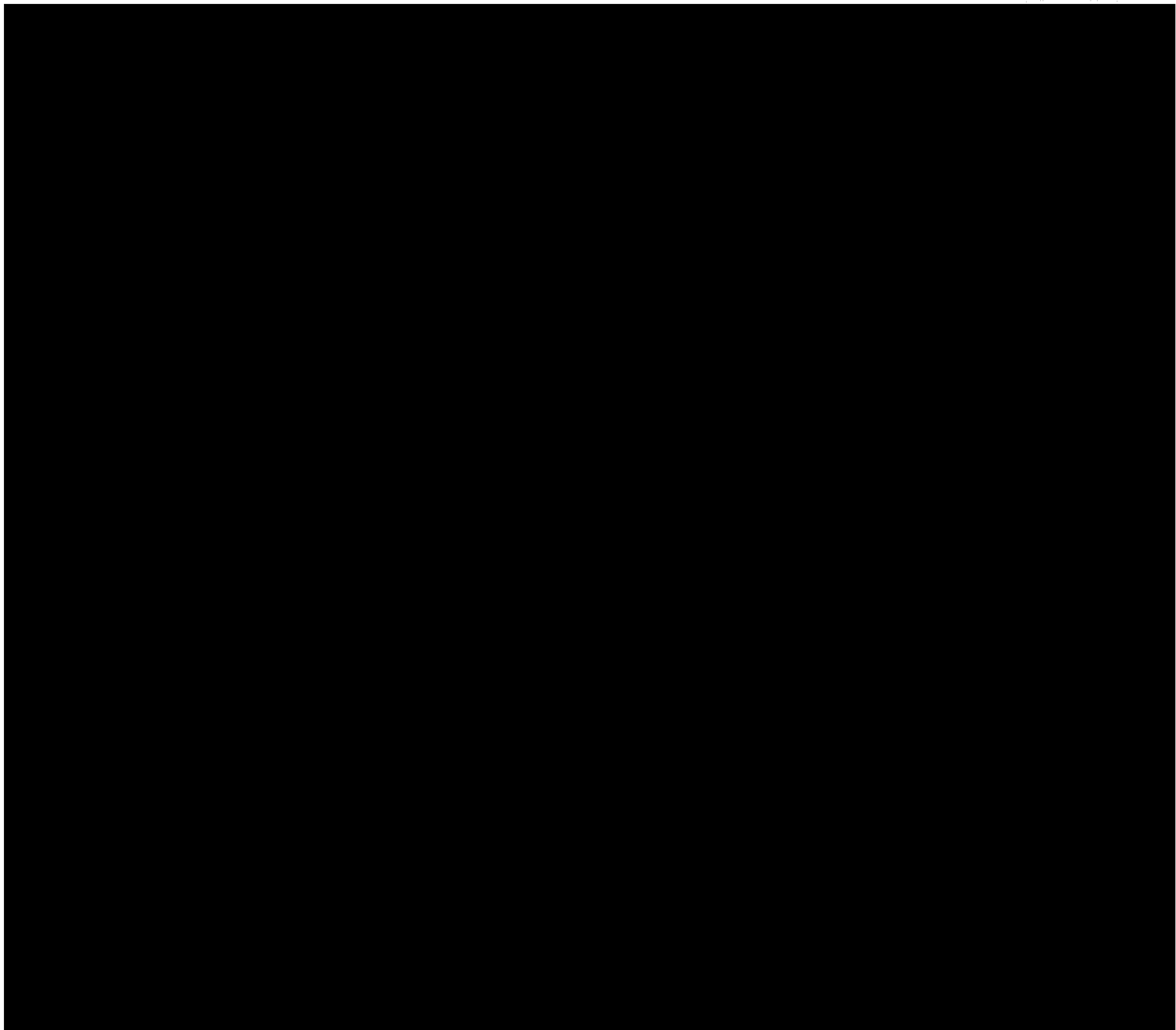
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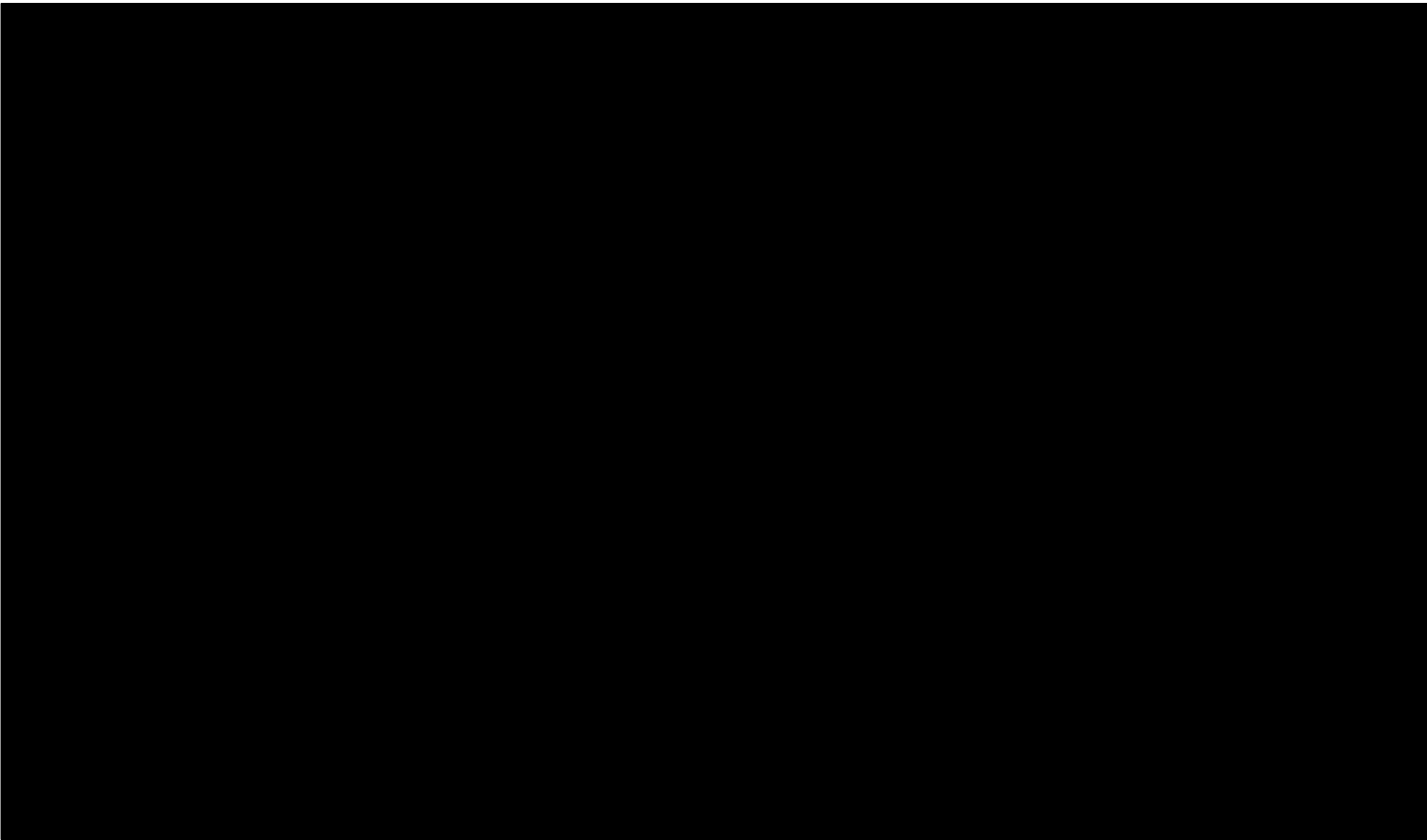
Hi,
thank you. I have read the Powlesland paper and thought it was a good study. I am still hoping to find many more recent examples of such thorough studies (and also long-term). I should probably watch that movie by the critics - have been avoiding it so far.

Regards,
[redacted]

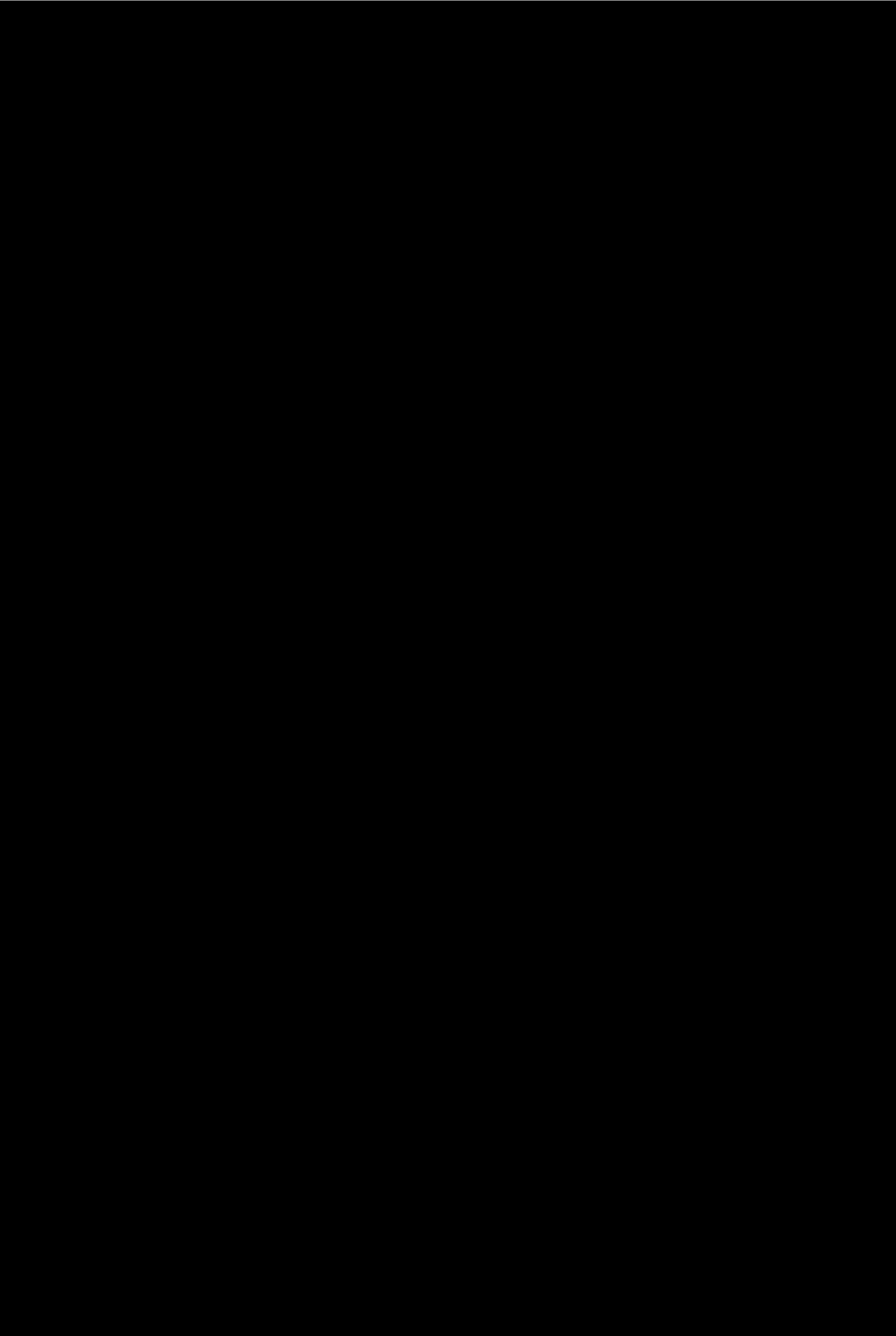


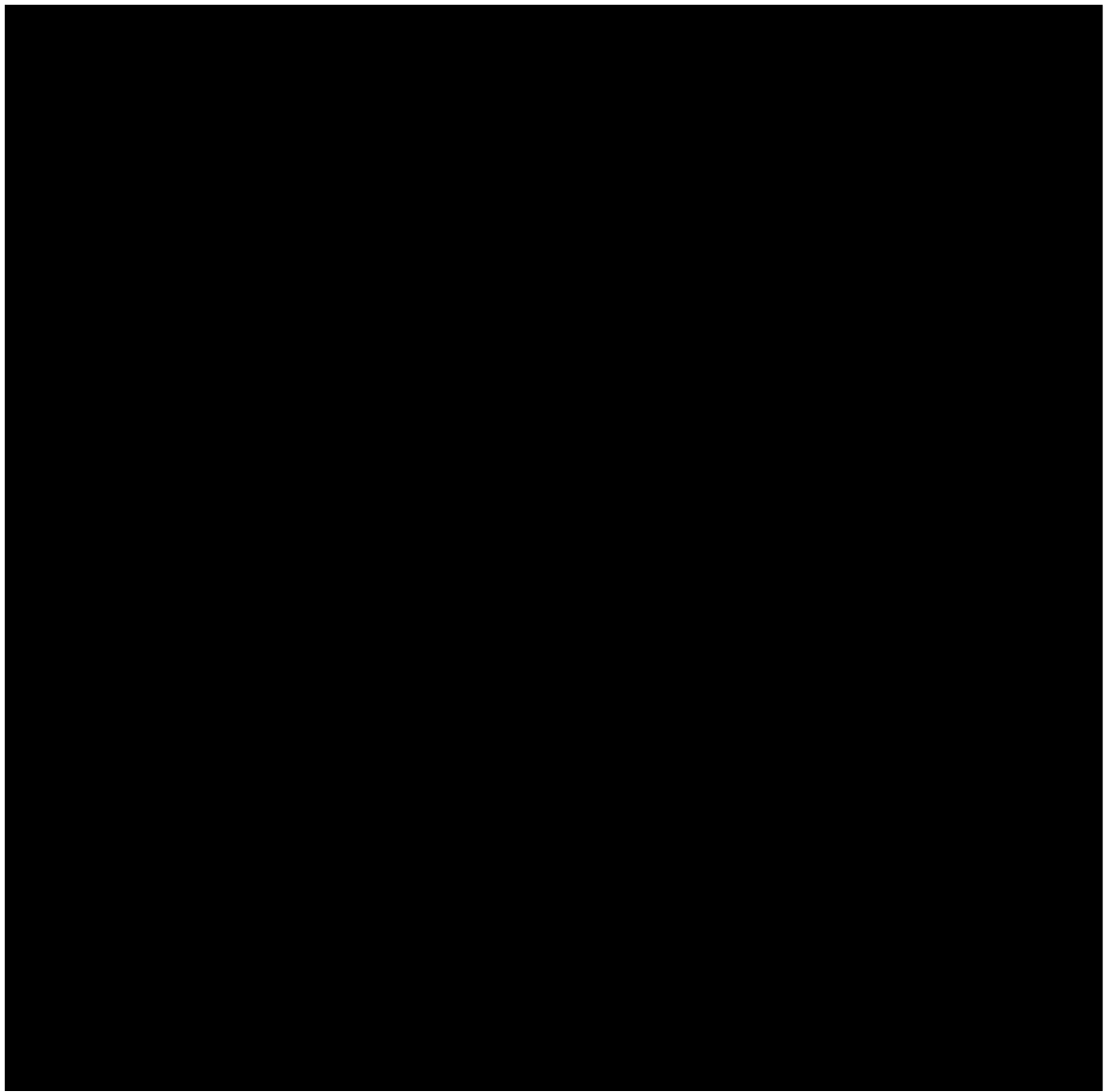


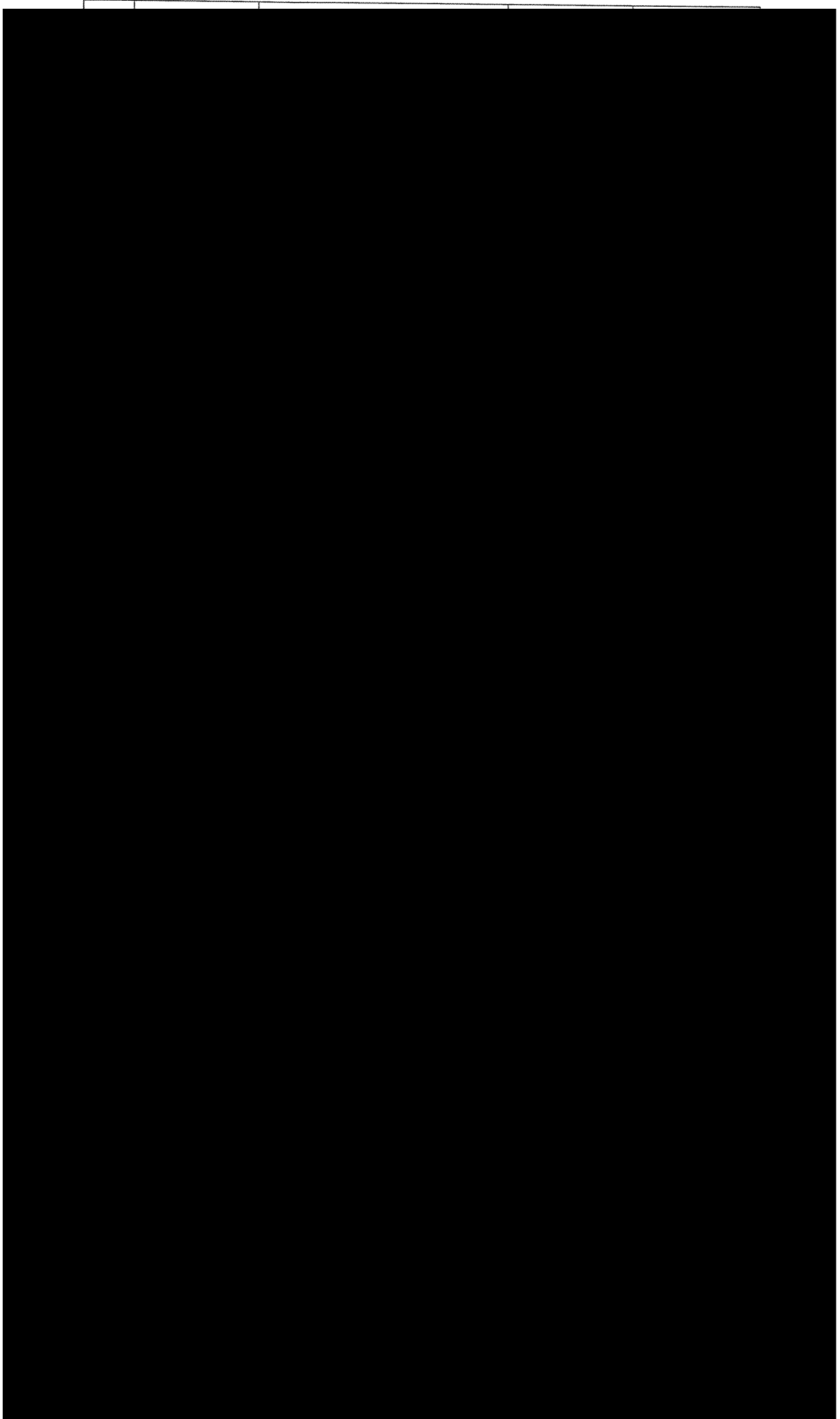


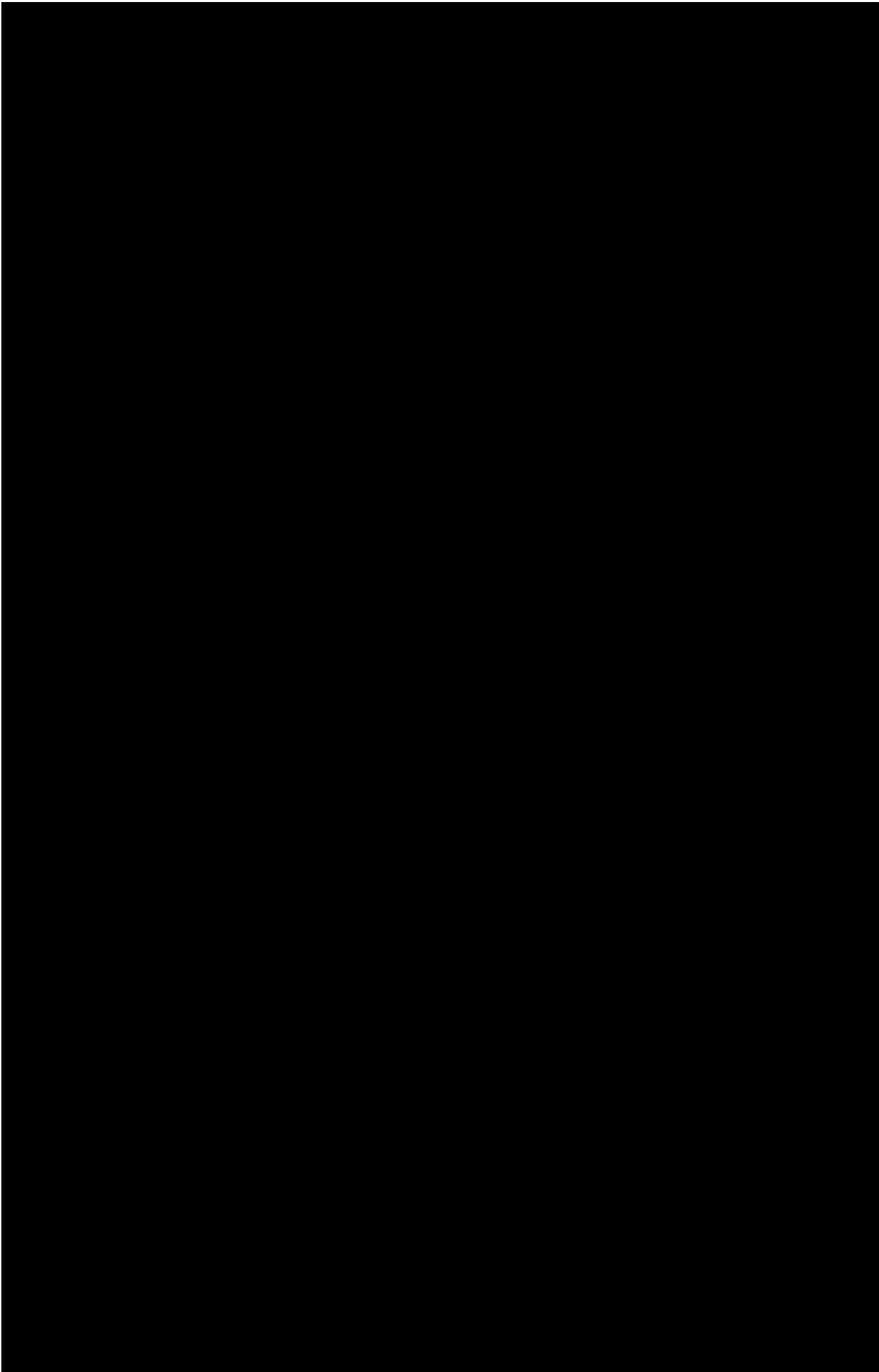


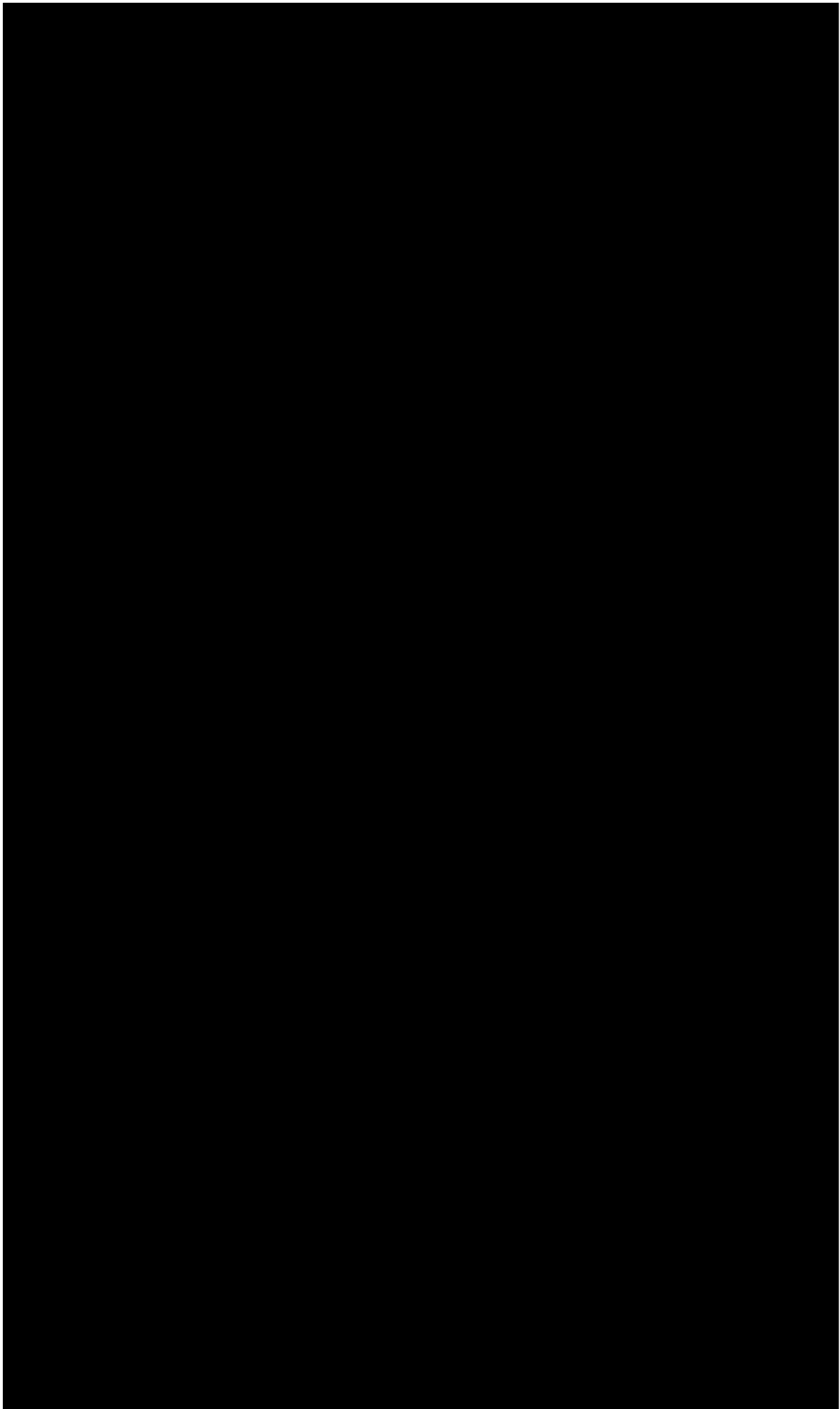




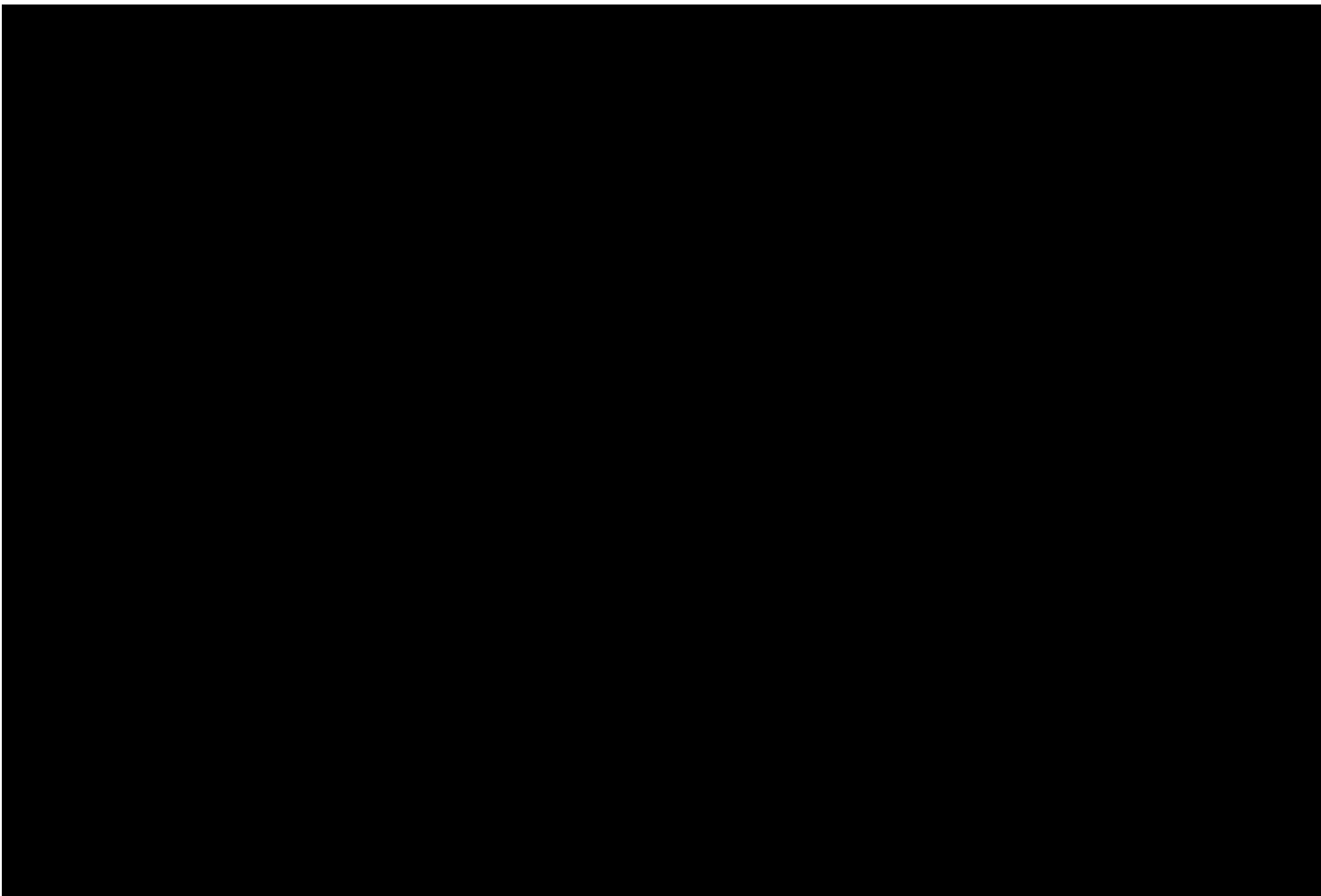




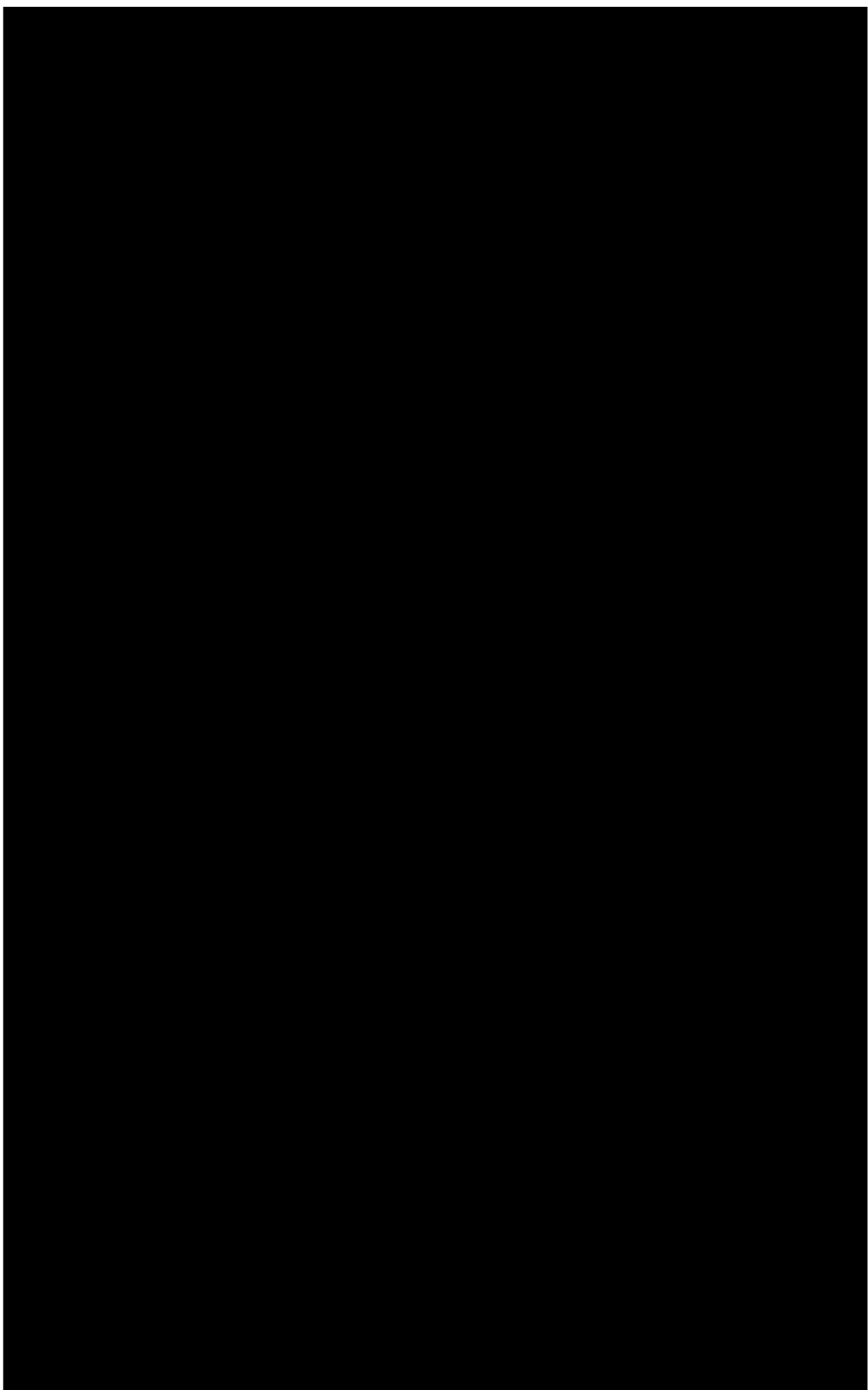


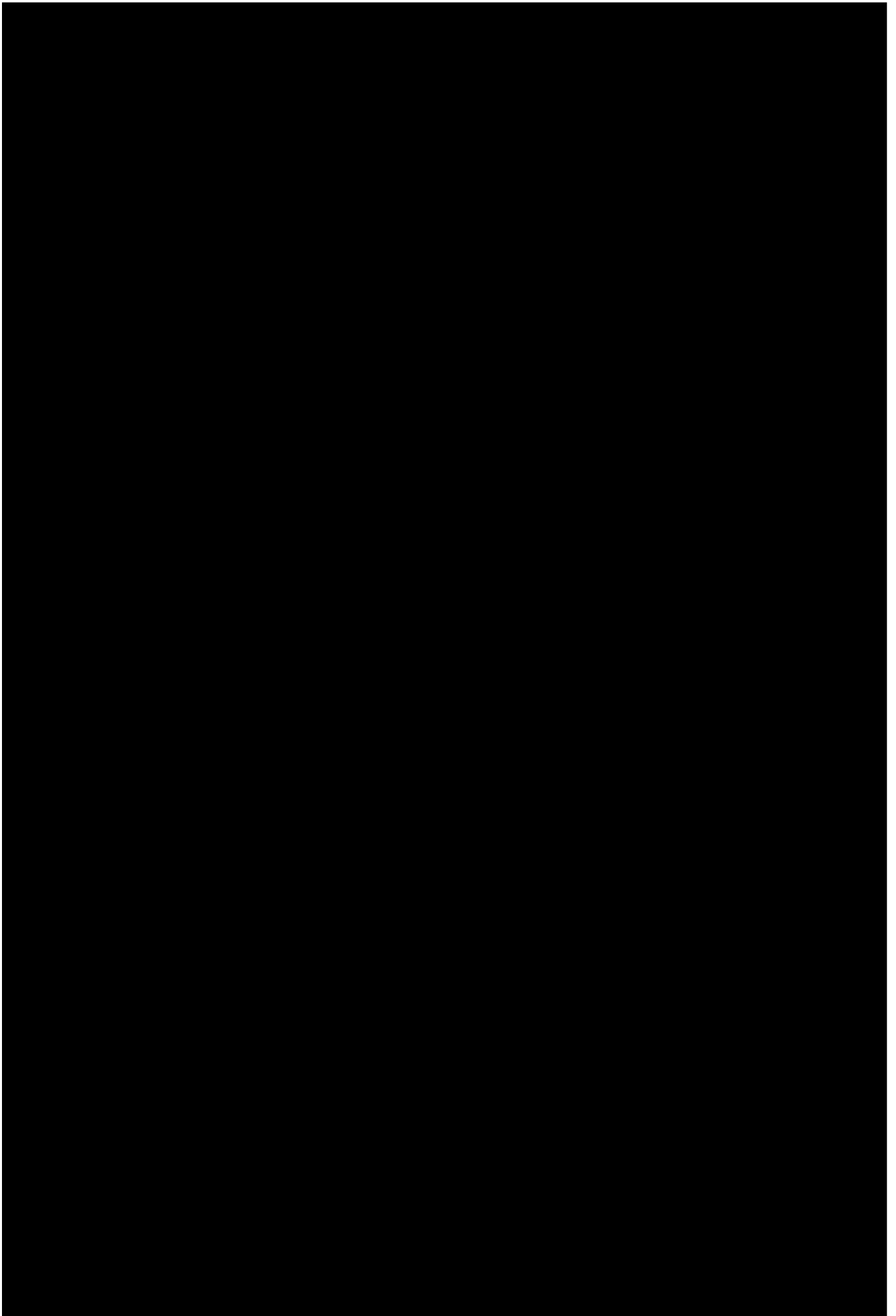


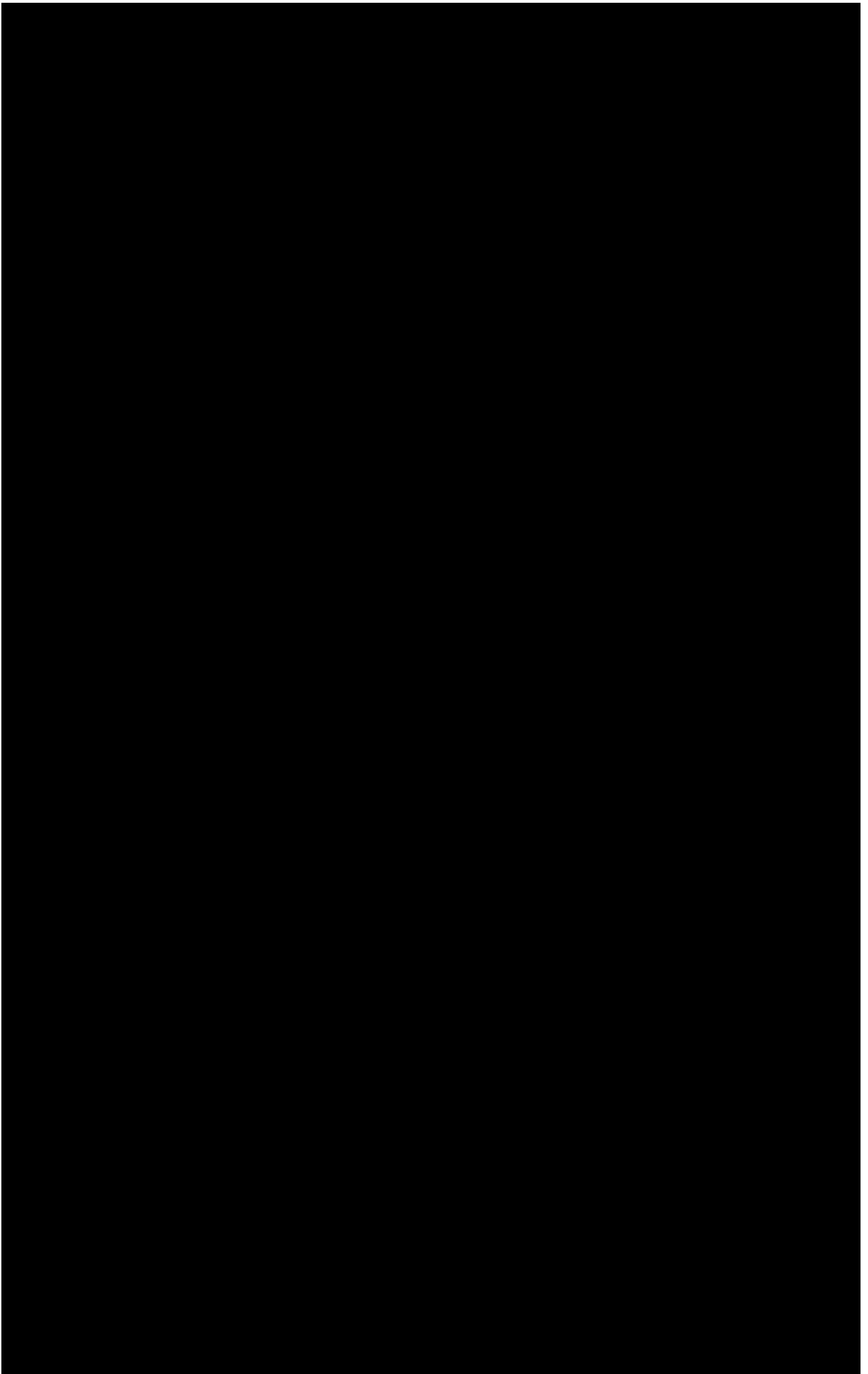


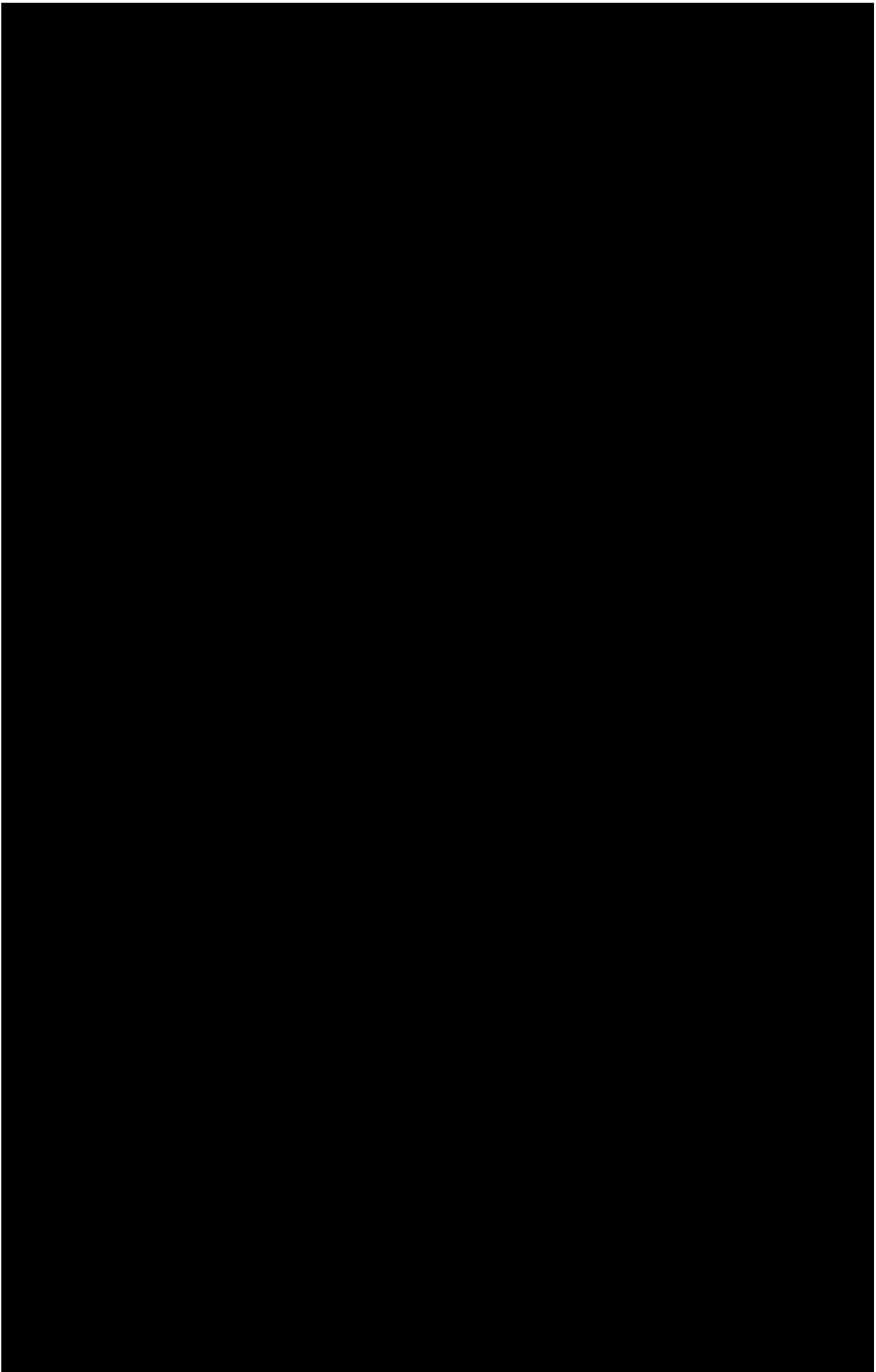


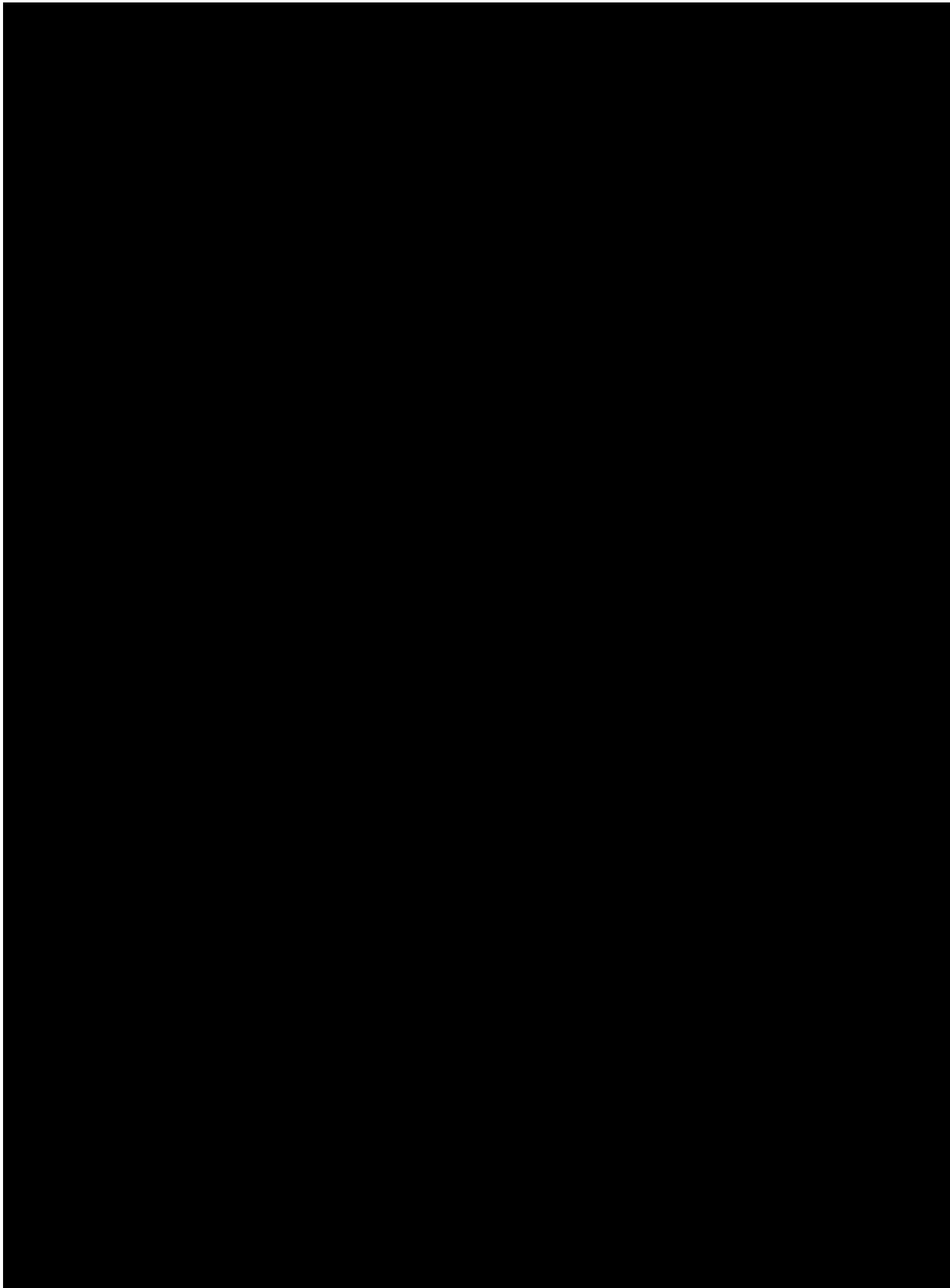
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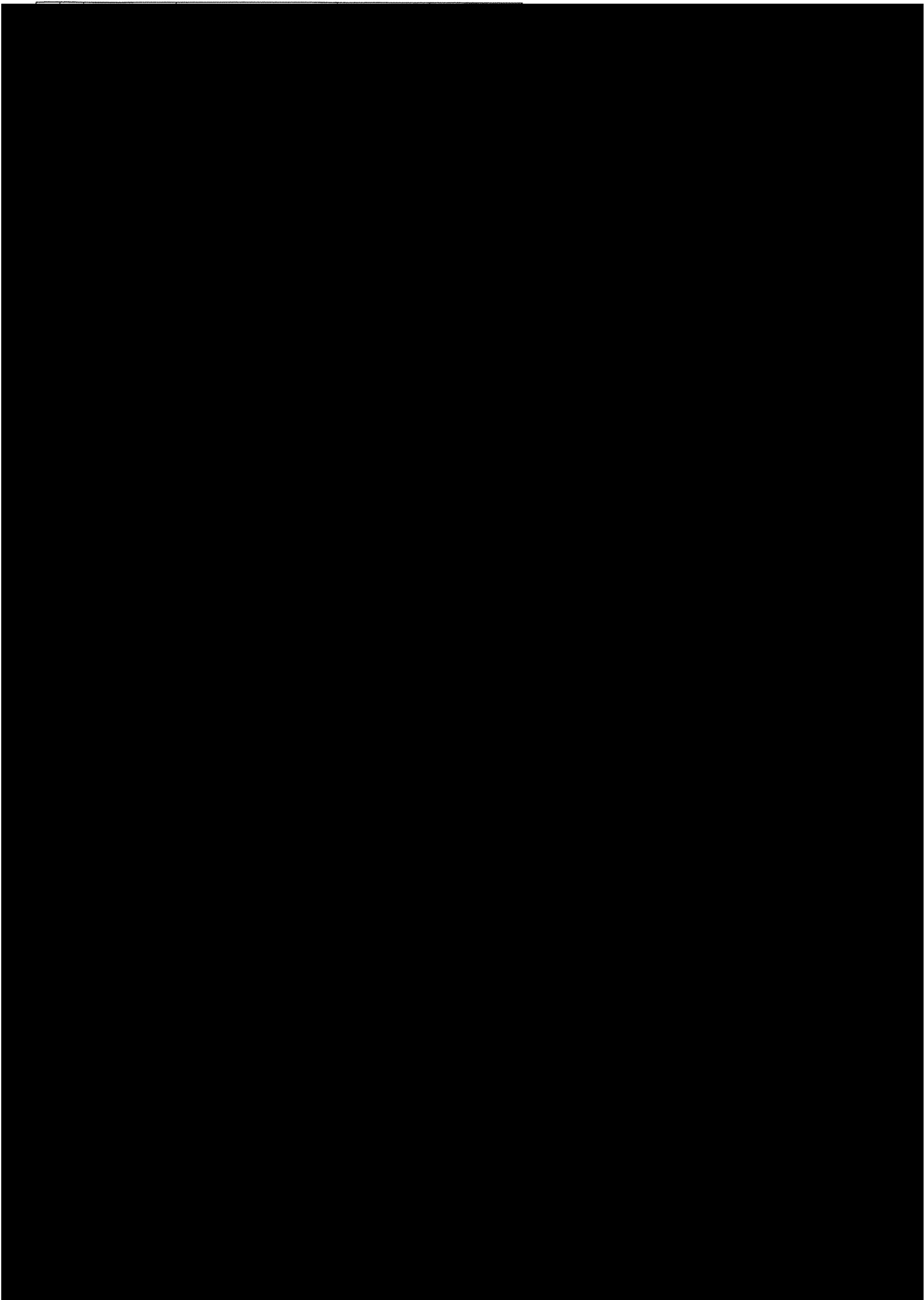


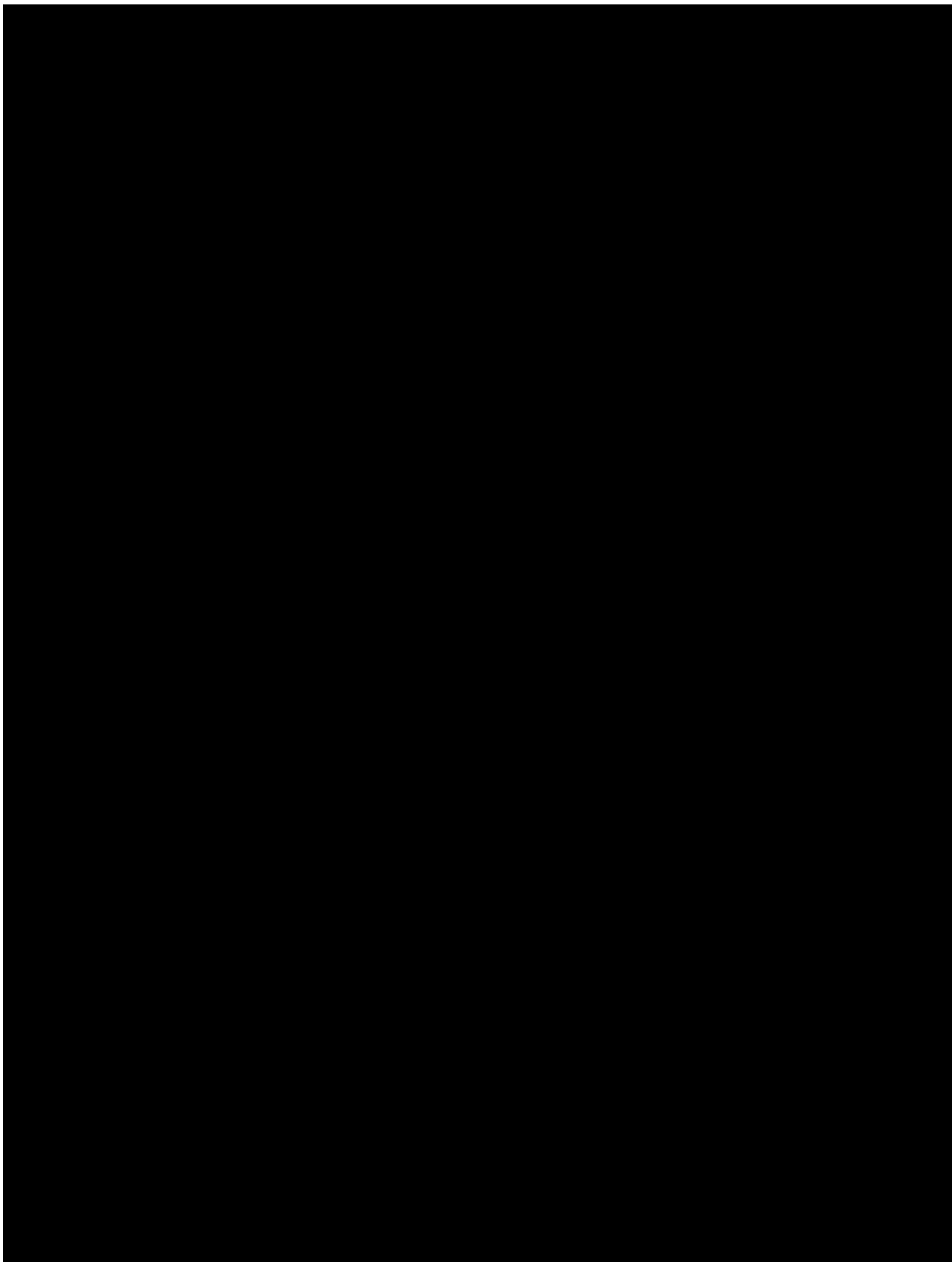


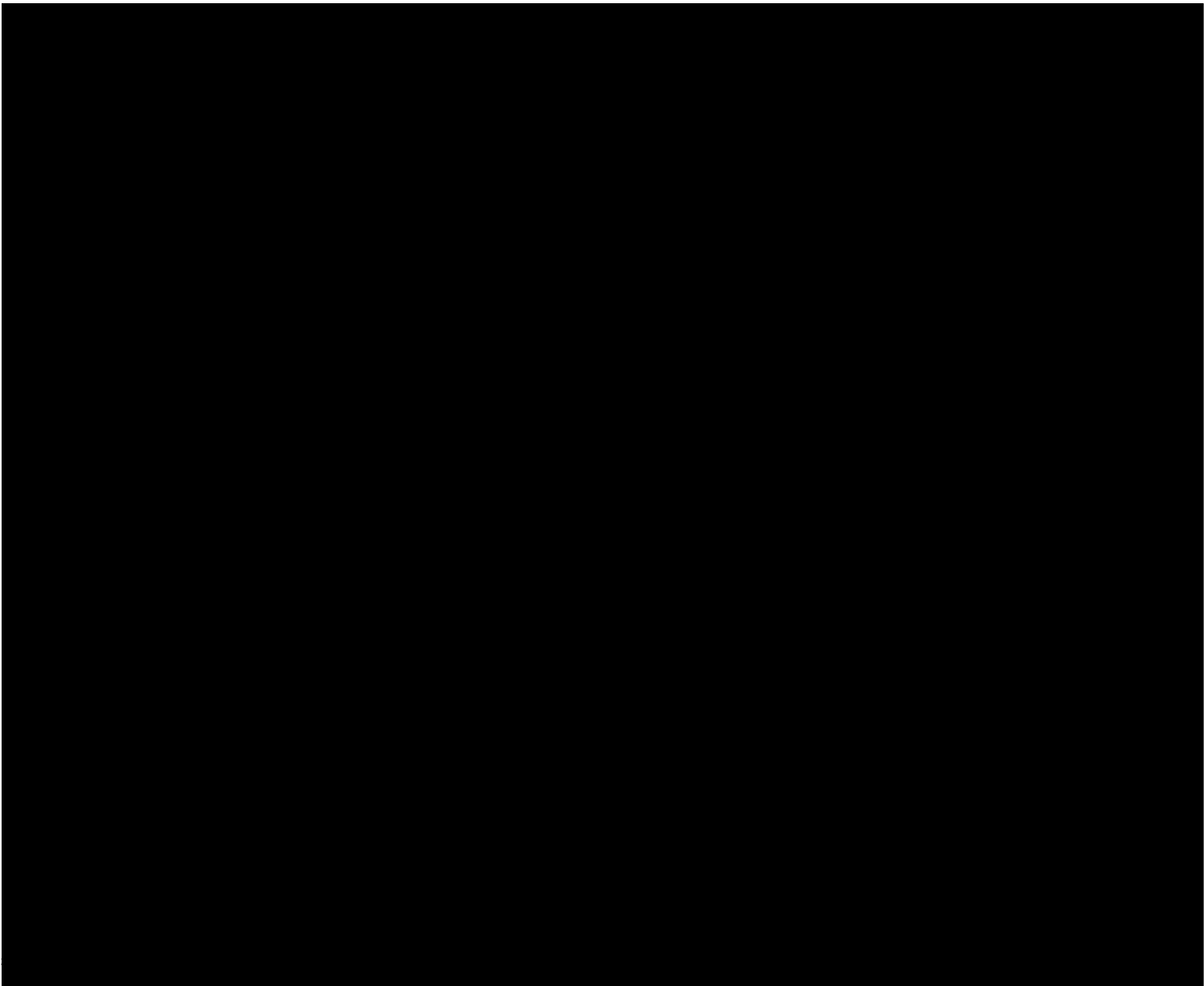












-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@pce.parliament.nz]

Sent: Wednesday, 11 August 2010 1:57 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: docDM-403930 - Current and new research to support aerial
1080 baiting

Hi [REDACTED]

yes, it was great to meet you and the other staff yesterday.

It's nice to be involved in a project close to my post-grad roots, too!

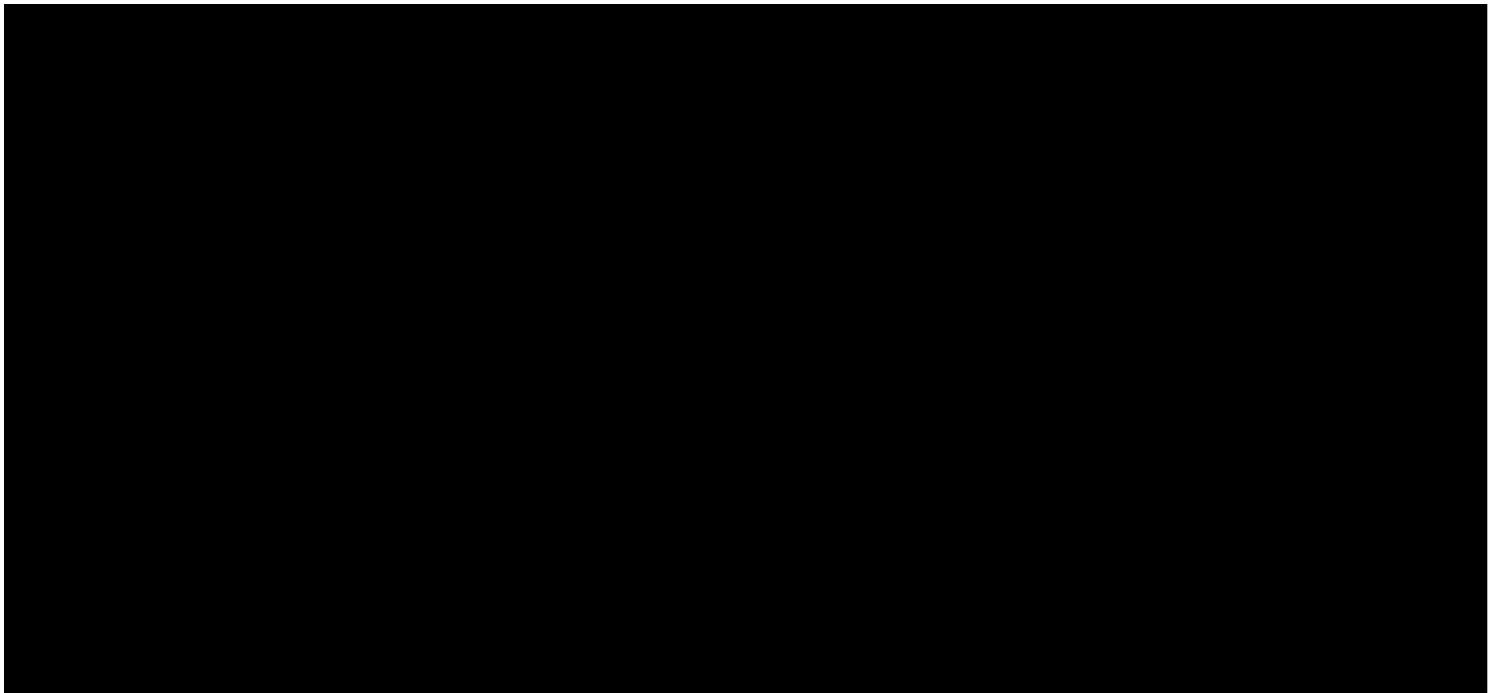
Thank you for this research plan, it will provide a good basis for the meeting tomorrow.

I'll be looking forward to it.

Regards,

[REDACTED]





12. 10/15/2011

13. 10/15/2011

14. 10/15/2011

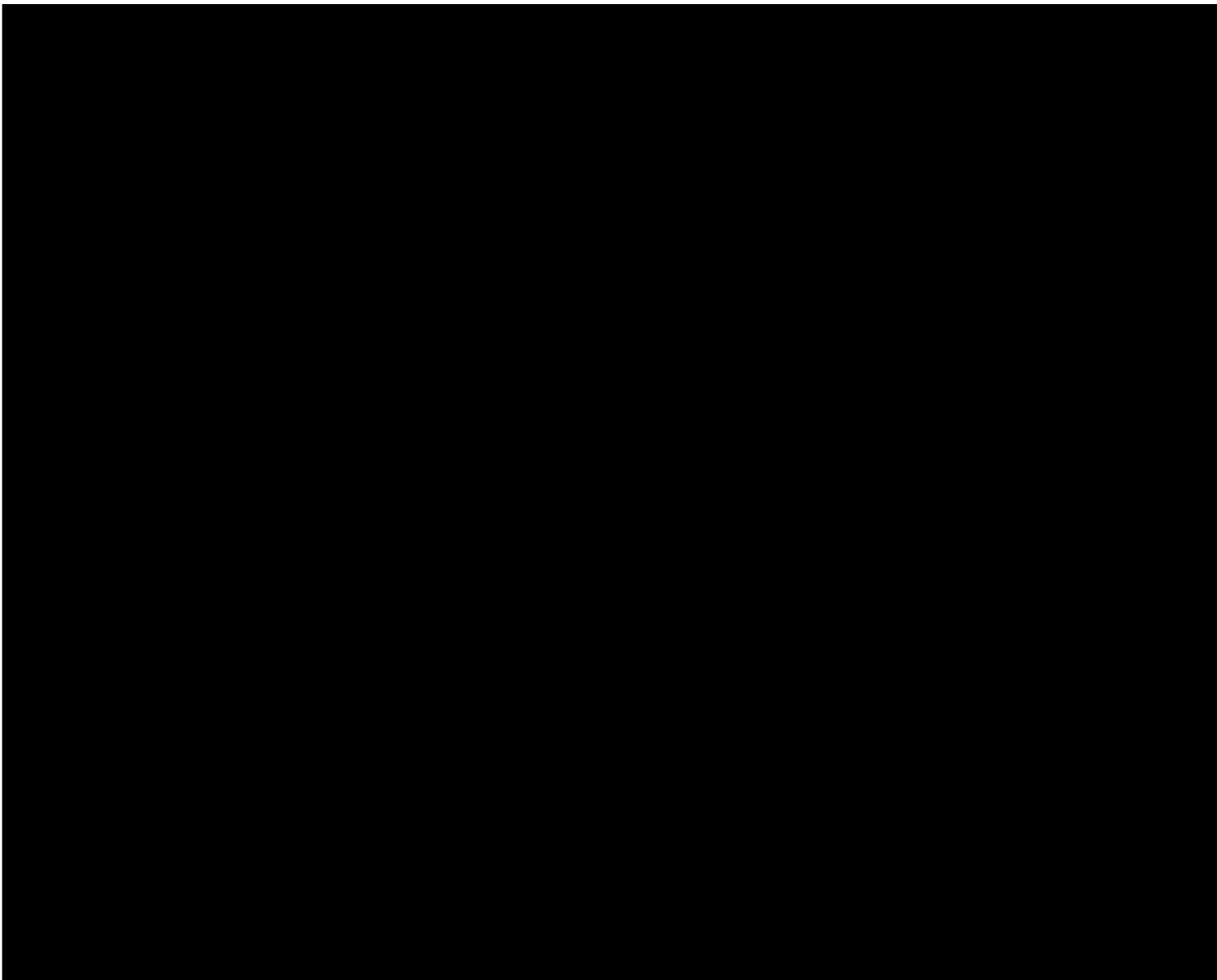
15. 10/15/2011

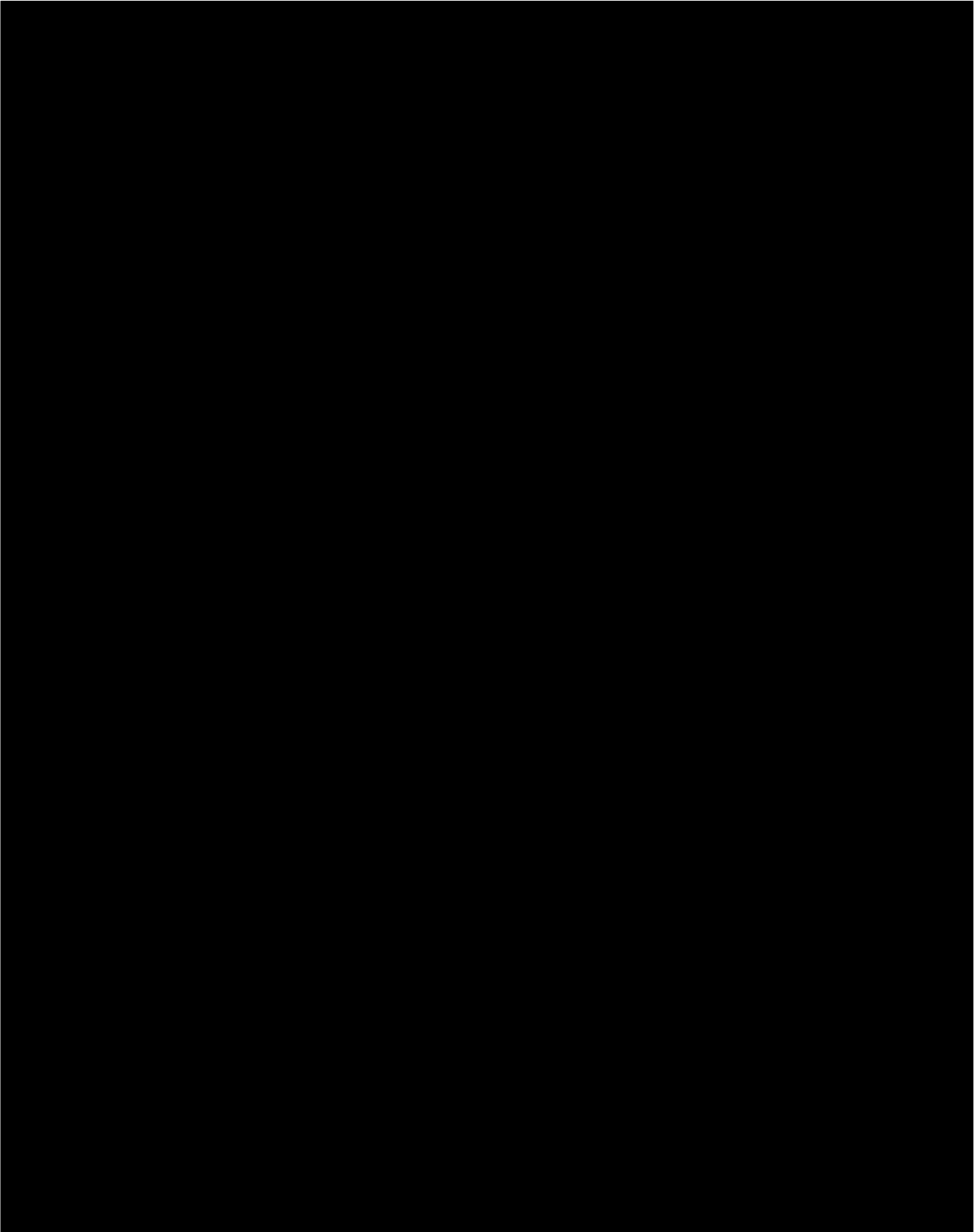
16. 10/15/2011

17. 10/15/2011

18. 10/15/2011

19. 10/15/2011





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Handwritten notes in the top left corner, including a small number '4' and some illegible scribbles.

