

10 November 2020

Tim Benseman

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Tēnā koe Tim

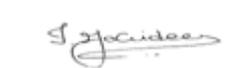
Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 12 October 2020 in which you asked for:

*How many Protected native birds have you killed with net guns? What are the species. In relation to the Kea you have killed with netguns, how long did it take the birds to die, from time of attack until death? Were the operators disciplined, retrained, or removed for killing these native birds? Were the weights that killed these kea made from lead, and if so, have these deaths been included in docs list of kea killed by lead "poisoning"?*

There are no known recorded deaths of native birds being killed by net guns. Kea are the only species for which DOC uses the net projector as a capture method. Between 1995 and 2020, a total of 187 kea have been captured using a net projector. This sample includes kea captured by non-DOC operators also, including researchers and community group members. Of these 187 keas, there are no netgun related deaths and all kea have survived this method of capture.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Nāku noa, nā



Fathima Iftikar  
Director Terrestrial Science  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*