

11 April 2023

Bridget Percy  
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Tēnā koe Bridget

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request to the Department of Conservation, received on 14 March 2023 in which you asked for information related to Pūkaha Mt Bruce.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Pukaha's 2021 Annual Report states that there are 6 pairs of kiwi in the Pukaha Forest. Can Pukaha Mt Bruce staff account for any of the other 148 kiwi which have been bred at, or brought into, Pukaha Mt Bruce since 2003? If so, how many and where are they?*

The Department is unable to provide the requested information as these details are held by Pūkaha Mt Bruce, and we recommend they are contacted if this information is required. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by us, and we have no grounds for believing another entity subject to the OIA has the information.

2. *How many kiwi were hatched at Pukaha Mt Bruce in the past 12 months (bred at Pukaha, not hatched for other organisations) and how many kiwi have died at Pukaha Mt Bruce in the past 12 months?*

Please refer to the response for question 1.

3. *The Pukaha Annual Report states that predator numbers are increasing (ferret numbers up 47% to 88 and feral cat numbers up 59% to 268). With this in mind, are kiwi still being released into the Pukaha Forest (and if so, how is this justified?).*

Please refer to the response for question 1.

4. *Why is the myth that kiwi, once they meet the target of 1.2kg are 'capable of fighting off predators' still being perpetuated by DOC and Pukaha Mt Bruce when so many adult kiwi have died there?*



The 1.2 kg refers to the recommended weight to release juvenile kiwi, as stoats continue to be a primary predator for kiwi. Young kiwi are vulnerable to stoat predation until they reach approximately 1 kg in weight (about 6 months old), at which time they can usually defend themselves from stoats and cats. The recommended release weight of 1.2 kg provides a weight buffer to increase survival rates from stoat predation.

Kiwi of any weight or age are susceptible to predation by both dogs and ferrets.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hilary Aikman'.

Hilary Aikman  
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*