

13 November 2024

Rachel Stedman

By email: fyi-request-28615-c36d80a6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rachel

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 7 October 2024, in which you asked:

*Please provide any service contracts, memoranda and policy information between the Department of Conservation and the Dunedin City Council in relation to the management and oversight of the South Island Kaka Captive Management Plan and the aviary at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens.
I further seek any development plans as to the aviary.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982. On 5 November we extended the timeframe available to respond to your request to 19 November due to the consultation necessary.

Your requests and our responses are listed below:

- 1. Please provide any service contracts, memoranda and policy information between the Department of Conservation and the Dunedin City Council in relation to the management and oversight of the South Island Kaka Captive Management Plan and the aviary at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens.*

The Department of Conservation (DOC) works with the Dunedin City Council ('the Council'), as managers of the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Aviary, to achieve the objectives of DOC's South Island Kākā Breed-for-Release programme. This important conservation work is conducted under the Council's Wildlife Act Authorisation (69352-CAP; Item 1), which details the authorised activities, the overall expectations of the Department, and the standards and conditions the Council must meet.

As per Schedule 3, Special Condition 8 of that Wildlife Act Authorisation, the Council must follow the direction of the DOC approved Captive Coordinator for the breed-for-release programme. An overview of the strategic direction for this programme is contained in the 2010-2020 South Island Kākā Captive Management Plan, which is publicly available here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/birds/south-island-kaka-captive-management-plan-2010-2020.pdf>.

Specific details regarding the annual objectives for the programme are covered in the annual Flocking and Breeding Plan (Item 2), including the number of birds required to be held at each participating facility to meet conservation objectives. The Flocking and Breeding Plan for 24/25 outlines the required activities at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Aviary.

Schedule 3, Special Condition 8 of that Wildlife Act Authorisation also requires that the Council meet the standards outlined in the Kākā Husbandry Manual, which is publicly available here: www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/science-publications/conservation-publications/native-animals/birds/kaka-husbandry-manual/

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	7 August 2018	Wildlife Act Authority for wildlife on non-public conservation land – Number: 69352-CAP	Released in part
2	1 May 2024	Flocking and Breeding Plan for 24/25	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Official Information Act, to protect members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment. In making this decision, I have considered section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

2. I further seek any development plans as to the aviary.

The Council advises that there are currently no development plans for the Dunedin Botanic Gardens Aviary. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act. The Department of Conservation does not hold this information, and I have no grounds for believing that this information is held by another department, organisation, or local authority.

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.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai