Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

LCO-01

7 November 2016

T Benseman
Email: fyi-request-4776-1e235404@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear T Bensemen

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of the 17 October 2016 for the following:

Please provide all details of the symptoms that all monitored Native Kea experienced after being poisoned by DOC with 1080 poison. Please also provide the time taken to die of those Kea, and the dates of all the episodes when DOC has killed Kea with 1080 poison.

Please find below a table of the dates and pathology details for monitored kea that died following aerial 1080 operations.

Kea are monitored through aerial 1080 operations using radio tags. The kea are caught during the months and years before the 1080 is laid and the radio tags are fitted using specially designed harnesses. The radio transmitters have inbuilt circuitry that counts the 'time since death in days, not hours. Thus, we know the time to death only to the nearest day. During the post-operational monitoring period, radio-tagged kea are monitored on foot or via aircraft using a receiver to detect the radio signal from each bird's transmitter. The body is recovered for necropsy unless conditions are unsafe. For more detailed information on the monitoring methods used for kea survivorship in aerial 1080 operations, refer to DOC Research & Development Series 344 (van Klink and Crowell 2013) on the DOC website (http://www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/drds344entire.pdf).

With this monitoring method we obtain no information on the poisoning symptoms for these kea, and we know time to death only to the nearest day, therefore I regret that I am not able to provide you with some of the information you seek. [Section 18e Official Information Act refers].

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

Susan Timmins
Director Threats (Acting)
Science and Policy
for Director-General

docCM-2897957/ 16-E-357

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Operation	Date(s) toxic applied	Number of days after 1080 application when bird died	Pathology details
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2008	1	Proventriculus and gizzard right contained green, visible cereal matter and some brown & black seeds.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2009	2	Green tinge but no obvious cereal matter, green seeds.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2010	4	Bright green, visible cereal matter, some brown & black seeds.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2011	10	No visible cereal matter. Rimu seeds & a small piece of plastic.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2012	11	Green tinge, possibly cereal matter, brown seeds & several pieces of black rubber.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2013	14	Bright green, visible cereal matter, some brown & black seeds.
Franz Fox	4-5 May 2014	35	Carcass too decomposed for necropsy (not recovered)
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	7 grams of intensely green coloured solid granular cereal-like ingesta; none of this material was visible in the small or large intestine.
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	There was intensely green-stained vomitus present around the upper and lower beaks and in the oral cavity. The crop contained 5 gms of green-colored semi solid granular cereal-like ingesta. Three grams of similar ingesta were present in thre proventriculus and gizzard.
Okarito	4 September 2011	5	Carcass too decomposed for necropsy (recovered after 5 months)
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	The bird was in good body condition. The proventriculus and gizzard contained 10 grams of intensely green coloured solid granular cereral-like ingesta; multiple segments of similar looking material was present in the small and large intestine.The liver and spleen were congested.No other gross abnormalities were observed.
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	Good subcutaneous fat reserves were present. Five grams of liquid green coloured ingesta was found in the crop. The provenmtriculus and gizzard contained 23 gms of solid granular cereral-like ingesta mixed with some leafy material. The liver and spleen were moderately congested.

Okarito	4 September 2011	1	Good subcutaneous fat reserves were present. Small amounts of bright green semisolid vomitus was present in the oral cavity. Approx 4 gms of liquid green coloured ingesta was found in the crop. The provenmtriculus and gizzard contained 16 gms of solid granular cereral-like ingesta. The liver and heart were slightly congested.
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	The bird had moderate subcutaneous fat reserves. The crop contained approx 10 gms of intensely green coloured solid granular cereral-like ingesta. The proventriculus and gizzard contained mixed leafy material and several 5mm diam circular white vegetable structures mixed with green coloured cereal. The liver and spleen were congested and the heart was slightly dilated. No other gross abnormalitis were observed.
Okarito	4 September 2011	1	The bird weighed 822 grams and was in moderate to good body condition; moderate subcutaneous fat reserves were present. The proventriculus and gizzard contained 6 grams of intensely green coloured solid granular cereral-like ingesta; none of this material was visible within the small or large intestine. The liver and spleen were congested. No other gross abnormalities were observed.
Otira	1 August 2013	1	The bird weighed 947 grams (pectoral muscle had already been removed on one side), and was inmoderate to good condition, with no external lesions or feather defects.Bright green pasty material was found loose in the coelum, which is likely the remnants of crop and gizzard contents that were removed previously. The koilin layer lining the gizzard was bright green. No other gross abnormalities were seen.
Otira	1 August 2013	1	The bird weighed 927 grams (pectoral muscle was already removed on one side) and was in moderate to good body condition. The crop contained bright green pasty content. The gizzard contents were bright green, consisting of plant-based material and seeds. The koilin layer was also bright green. No further gross abnormalities were noted.
Otira	1 August 2013	2	The bird weighed 975 grams (one pectoral muscle was already removed) and was in good body condition. The crop was empty. The gizzard contents consisted of plant material and were bright green. The koilin layer lining the gizzard was also bright green. No further gross abnormalities were noticed.

Otira	1 August 2013	2	The bird weighed 942 grams (pectoral muscle was already removed on one side) and was in good body condition. The crop contained bright green pasty content. The gizzard contents were bright green, consisting of plant-based material and seeds. The koilin layer was also bright green. No further gross abnormalities were noted.
Otira	1 August 2013	3	The bird weighed 861 grams and was in moderate condition. The crop contained seeds. The plant-based gizzard contents and koilin lining were a bright green colour. No further gross abnormalities were found.
Abbey Rocks	6-7 November 2014	1	The bird weighed 818 grams (the pectoral muscle had already been removed on one side), and was in moderate condition, with good pectoral muscle mass and moderate subcutaneous fat. Bright green liquid material was found within the crop and proventriculus. The ventriculus was moderately full with granular, bright green material. No other gross abnormalities were noted.
Oparara	6-8 November 2014	1	The crop contained a small amount of bright green pasty granular material. The ventriculus and proventriculus were moderately full and contained some green food material and bright green pasty granular material. No other abnormalities were observed on gross post-mortem.
Oparara	6-8 November 2015	1	The animal weighed 1.08 kg and was in good body condition; moderate pectoral muscle mass and subcutaneous fat reserved. The crop was empty. The ventriculus and proventriculus were moderately full and contained some green food material and bright green granular material. No other abnormalities were observed on gross post-mortem.
Rotoiti	3 December 2014	3	The bird weighed 870 grams and was in good body condition. The internal organs were in a fairly advanced state of decomposition. The gizzard contained a moderate amount of seed-like material and the koilin was stained bright green. No other abnormalities were noted on gross postmortem.