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23 November 2016

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Dear Mr Thompson

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request of 17 November 2016, asking the following questions about the Matukituki and Makarora 1080 operations;

1. How were the rodent population numbers ascertained?
2. What is the total financial cost of this abandoned operation to date?
3. How were the unused cereal baits disposed of?
4. Were 1080 cereal baits transported from Makarora to Marton and dumped in a toxic waste-pit?

I should clarify that only the Matukituki operation has been cancelled due to low rodent numbers. The Makarora operation is intended to go ahead as soon as weather permits, as rodent levels are higher at this site.

The answers to your questions are as follows;

1. Rodent numbers are assessed using a standardised Small Mammal Index monitoring protocol. This involves deploying tracking tunnels baited with peanut butter throughout the forest and counting the numbers of rat and mouse footprints recorded in summer, autumn, winter and spring.
2. The total cost of the cancelled Matukituki operation is \$2151. This was for planning, consenting and monitoring costs.
3. Unused bait not needed for the Matukituki operation has been transferred to other Battle for our Birds operations, which are scheduled to run over the coming months.
4. No toxic bait has been dumped from any Battle for our Birds operation in 2016. This did occur following the cancelled Makarora operation in 2015, but has not occurred during this year's programme.

Yours sincerely

Martin Kessick  
Director National Operations