



**OIA reference no. 17-E-15**

31 January 2017

Daryl Trask

[fyi-request-5226-d7e61a2b@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5226-d7e61a2b@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Trask,

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request of 18 January 2017 for the following:

*“Please inform me whether or not the Department of Conservation is, or has knowledge of another government department that is, employing people either paid or unpaid, to lobby a pro 1080 poison stance on social media. If so what is the budget allocation?”*

The Department of Conservation (DOC) does not employ people, either paid or unpaid, to lobby a pro 1080 stance on social media. In addition, it is not aware of other Government departments employing people, either paid or unpaid to lobby a pro 1080 stance on social media.

DOC provides explanations on the Government's policy decisions through its communication channels including social media, website and media releases. It aims to provide clarity on key issues and address misconceptions where it considers this to be necessary.

The use of 1080 is an example where the Government has a policy position on the use of 1080, and considers that its use is necessary to protect our threatened wildlife.

Given the wider public interest around the use of 1080, DOC aims to provide clear information for the public and reassurance that issues such as safety and efficacy have been carefully considered, and that the Government is complying with statutory requirements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mervyn English'.

Mervyn English  
Deputy Director-General, Strategy & Innovation  
Department of Conservation