



LCO-01

10 May 2017

Ursula Edgington

<mailto:fyi-request-5751-223dde43@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Ursula

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your Official Information Request dated 19 April 2017 for the following:

With regard to the DOC Press Release dated 6 March 2017, the following was headlined:

Remarkable recovery of kākā population: South Island kākā have made an extraordinary comeback in a Fiordland forest since pest control started just over a decade ago, recent study results show.

On the basis that DOC is publicly-funded I respectfully request the full details of this study and the outcomes. I would expect to be sent:

Research proposal summary

Ethics application/approval

any relevant communications/ documents/minutes of meetings etc Methodology of the study and rationale Outcomes data/findings/conclusions

If some or all of this is not available, please outline whether these are legally withheld and why, or whether some other reason is relevant - if so what reason and what rationale is used to withhold this information.

The Minister of Conservation's press release was prepared from the results of analysis undertaken as part of the preparation of a scientific paper describing the study and its findings. The paper will be completed and submitted for publication within the next few months after which the Department will be able to provide you with a copy.

For your information, I attach a copy of the data supplied to the Minister of Conservation titled *Kaka nesting success and 1080 operations*.

The kaka study was part of a much larger study involving a range of species to which kaka were added after the study had been running about 6 months. Kaka are not in the original proposal documents which are attached to show the background to the study: *Cost Benefits of Aerial 1080 for Forest Bids in South Westland*. The Methodology of the study and rationale outcomes data you seek is contained in the attached *Investigation Management Form* and the findings are shown in *Kaka and 1080: Preliminary Results* also attached.

17-E-160/doc-3023197

National Office

Conservation House - *Whare Kaupapa Atawhai*
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143
Telephone (04) 471 0726, Fax (04) 381 3057

No ethics approval was required for this work as the catching and radio-tagging of kaka is a standard technique covered by best practise documentation as per the Department's 'Attaching radio and data tags to Birds' Standard Operating Procedures and therefore requires no specific ethics approval.

I regret that I am not able to provide you with some of the information you seek: *"any relevant communications/ documents/minutes of meetings"* as there are none available. Refer section 18(e) of the Official Information Act; that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

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

Yours sincerely



Allan Ross
Director, Threats
Science and Policy
for Director General