

OIA-18-E-0747 / DOC-5600571

16 October 2018

Daryl Trask

fyi-request-8757-648131e3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Trask

Thank you for your Official Information Act request which was referred to the Department of Conservation on 27 September 2018. You requested the following:

Please provide me with information on all aerial poisoning operations in NZ by year and location since 1950. Please inform the areas treated, type of poison used, department/organization conducting the drop, amount of poison used, and dates of treatment.

The Department does not hold records of all toxin operations across New Zealand for the period requested. To provide what you seek would require substantial research of archival records over a period of over half a century. I have borne in mind sections 18A and 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of either provision would not assist in this case.

I am happy to inform you that information about current DOC aerial 1080 drops is already publicly available. DOC maintains an open-access mapping app, the Pesticide Summary, which shows the locations of all current and planned (confirmed) pest control operations using toxins (including 1080) on public conservation land. This app is updated daily and contains information as to what toxin is applied, how, by whom and the likely dates it is to be used.

See: <http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=pesticidesummary>

Again, thank you for your information request to the Department of Conservation and obvious concern for our environment.

I'm sure you will be aware that New Zealand is facing a biodiversity crisis, with urgent action required to halt the decline of our native species. Results from ongoing research into pest control techniques show that both trapping and 1080 are hugely beneficial for our native wildlife. 1080 is ideally suited for use in New Zealand because introduced mammals are extremely vulnerable to the poison but monitoring shows most native species are not at significant risk.

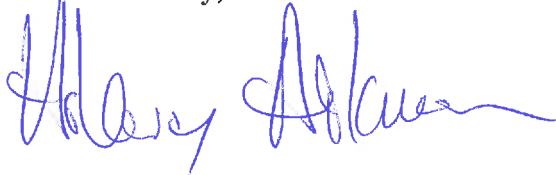
Please visit the websites below for further information:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/>

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Aikman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Hilary Aikman
Director, National Operations