



18-E-1055

14 January 2019

James Cameron
fyi-request-9045-7c335acf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Cameron

Non-Discrimination Standards

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act of 14 November 2018. I would like to apologise for the extended delay in responding as a result of an administrative error.

I can advise that the Department of Conservation, when deciding to progress with a trial of differential charging on selected Great Walks, did not undertake a specific check against the requirements of *The Non-Discrimination Standards for Government and the Public Sector*, published by the Ministry of Justice.

The department did however check this policy change to undertake a trial was consistent with the NZ Bill of Rights and the Human Rights Acts.

The objective of the differential pricing trial on selected Great Walks is to help improve access for New Zealanders to the Great Walks and to increase the proportion of costs that are recovered from international users and to spread maintenance costs between tax payers and users.

The Department of Conservation's understanding is that applying a differential rate to non-residents on a trial basis is consistent with the objective. The department considers the trial represents a cautious and measured approach which will inform future political decision making.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Walker – Director, Recreation, Tourism and Heritage