

19-E-0063/DOC-5706142

20 February 2019

Mr T Benseman
fyi-request-9509-fd82f882@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Benseman

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 3/2/2019. Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- I require an exact accounting of ALL Karearea /NZ Falcon that have been handed in to DOC between 1-1-2012 and 1-1-2019. I also require the dates and times that all Falcons were handed in, how many of them were tested for toxins and the names of every agency that tests birds for toxin levels within New Zealand.*

I am refusing your request in part under section 18f of the Official Information Act. An exact accounting of all Karearea/NZ falcon handed into the department between 2012 and 2019 would require substantial new work to collate. More than 45 offices would need to manually check paper and digital files some of which will have been archived.

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.

The following information is contained within the department's Pesticide Information Reviews and relates to Karearea/NZ falcon deaths associated with pest control operations:

Pesticide	No. of karearea found dead	No. tested for residue	No. of positive residue
Brodifacoum	0	n/a	n/a
1080	0	n/a	n/a
Pindone	0	n/a	n/a
Cholecalciferol	0	n/a	n/a
Cyanide	0	n/a	n/a

Additionally, 21 marked (8 radio-tagged and 13 banded) adult Karearea/NZ falcon were monitored through three 0.15% 1080 cereal pellet

operations undertaken in Kaingaroa Forest during 2013-2014 by Horikoshi et al. (2018). All the marked falcon survived the operations.

Seaton et al. (2009) collected productivity data from 87 Karearea/NZ falcon nests in Kaingaroa pine plantation during three breeding seasons, 2003 - 2006. During this time 1080 pellets and carrots were ground laid or aerially applied in forest compartments where falcon bred. The study found that the numbers of chicks successfully fledged was not related to time since 1080 application (1 month to >3 years), application method or bait type. During the study the breeding falcon population increased from 20 to 36 pairs, leading to the authors concluding that 1080 did not have a negative impact on falcon, and probably had a positive impact by reducing predation pressure on the falcon.

Regarding agencies that test birds for toxin levels, the only laboratory fully certified in New Zealand for 1080 testing is run by Landcare Research. The laboratory is accredited with International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) and also under the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) laboratory approval scheme (LAS).

- 2. Additionally, please name all bird protection and advocacy groups that DOC control/influence/advise/fund or administer within New Zealand.*

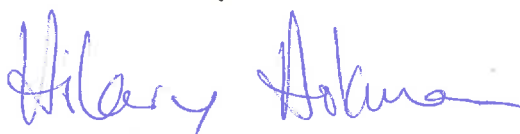
The department works with a very large number of bird protection and advocacy groups throughout New Zealand, as part of our statutory role under the Wildlife Act, Conservation Act, National Parks Act and Reserves Act. No register is held of every group that we advise or influence across the country.

A list of community conservation groups that have been funded by the Department of Conservation Community Fund can be viewed here; <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/doc-community-fund/successful-applications/>

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

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

Yours sincerely



Hilary Aikman
Director National Operations