

8 May 2024

T Peters

[fyi-request-26088-52a6a22e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26088-52a6a22e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe,

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (the Department), received on 13 March 2024, in which you asked for:

- *all communications, including confirmation/approvals relating to (the extra \$5m per year from a Budget 2022 allocation to DOC that has been directed to Predator Free 2050 Ltd)*
- *all communications, including confirmation/approvals relating to the extension of Jobs For Nature money by two years.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 5 April 2023, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 3 May 2024, as the information you are seeking is of a large quantity, and necessary consultation. On 3 May 2024 we advised you that we would grant your request and provide you with the information by 10 May 2024.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. All communications, including confirmation/approvals relating to (the extra \$5m per year from a Budget 2022 allocation to DOC that has been directed to Predator Free 2050 Ltd)**

On 6 October 2023, Predator Free 2050 Ltd (PF2050 Ltd) made a formal request to the Department for an additional \$5 million per annum, from 1 July 2024, to support landscape projects. The request is to ensure priority projects, funded by PF2050 Ltd, are maintained once Jobs for Nature funding comes to an end. It followed a series of meetings between PF2050 Ltd and the Department in August 2023 and September 2023.

During this time, the Department, PF2050 Ltd, and other key partners, commenced development of a programme-wide *Implementation Plan*; refining roles and responsibilities for its delivery. The *Implementation Plan* identifies a key strategic focus for PF2050 Ltd on

unlocking rural and urban areas where knowledge for eradication lags behind experience in backcountry environments.

On 9 February 2024, the Department's Director-General, Penny Nelson, agreed in principle to provide PF2050 Ltd with \$5 million in funding per annum, for three years, to 'support existing priority projects to unlock cost effective and scalable eradication methodologies in urban and rural environments'.

We are releasing 10 documents relating to part one of your request. These documents are outlined in *Table 1*, below. The documents include a range of internal emails and briefings, as well as communications between the Department and Predator Free 2050 Ltd.

## **2. All communications, including confirmation/approvals relating to the extension of Jobs For Nature money by two years**

As part of the Jobs for Nature programme, PF2050 Ltd received \$76 million to create employment, while scaling up planned predator control projects. PF2050 Ltd allocated this funding across 15 sub-projects around New Zealand.

In June 2023, the timeframe of the Jobs for Nature programme was extended from 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2025. In September 2023, PF2050 Ltd formally requested a two-year timeframe extension of 14 of the sub-projects from June 2024 to June 2026. Further clarity was sought on the details of the request, and it was approved on 27 November 2024.

We are releasing, in response to part two of your request, a range of emails and documents relating to the two-year extension request, along with the final decision letter, as outlined in *Table 2*, below.

For context, no further funding has been allocated as a result of the extension. The extension supports a request to realign existing remaining funding. The Department will continue to work with all recipients of Jobs for Nature funding to ensure quality reporting and demonstrate programme achievements.

Please note that some information in the documents listed in *Table 1*, and *Table 2*, below, is withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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 OIA.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Brent Beaven, by email to [bbeaven@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bbeaven@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman  
Director, Terrestrial Biodiversity  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Table 1 - Schedule of documents - part 1**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	07/09/23	Initial request for additional funding from Denise Church to Penny Nelson	Released in part
2	18/09/23	DG Meeting Briefing – PF2050 Ltd Chair	Released in part
3	20/09/23	Emails – Phone conversation on predator free	Released in part
4	12/09/23-27/09/23	Emails on meeting summary	Released in part
5	06/10/23	Letter from CEO Predator Free 2050 Ltd to the Department “Additional funding for landscape projects”	Released in part.
6	09/10/23-11/09/23	Emails on funding application PF2050 Ltd	Released in part
7	30/01/24	D-G Briefing	Released in part.
8	09/02/24	Email on D-G Briefing	Released in full
9	19/09/24	Emails on PF info as requested by Penny Nelson	Released in part
10	08/03/24-12/03/24	Texts – PF2050 Ltd (CEO Rob Forlong) & DOC (Deputy Director General Biodiversity, Heritage and Visitor, Stephanie Rowe)	Released in full

**Table 2 - Schedule of documents - part 2**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	29/8/23-27/11/23	Pg 40 - Emails regarding the request for a two-year extension.	Released in part.
3	23/11/23	Pg 70 – DDG Briefing JFN0028 JFN PF2050 Ltd project extension request	Released in part
4	27/11/23	Pg 83 – Decision Letter to Predator Free 2050 Ltd	Released in part
5	25/05/23	Pg 86 – One page of Briefing Note 23-BRF-3263 SLU Ministers update [All other parts of Briefing are out of scope]	Released in part