

1 May 2024

Stephen Prendergast
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Tēnā koe Stephen

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 26 March 2024, in which you asked for:

'advice given to the Minister on the role of the decision maker and the options for delegation generally, and specifically in the Turoa Concession Application.'

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

On 26 April 2024 we made a decision on your request and noted that additional time was required to prepare material for release. We also stated that this documentation (the first tranche) would be provided to you no later than 1 May 2024.

Three documents have been identified as within scope of your request (outlined below). Two of these documents are provided and accompany our response as Attachment 1 (items 1 & 3).

Please note that additional time is required to prepare Item 2 for release (23-B-0344). As such this material will be provided in the second tranche of our release. We expect to provide this document to you in the coming days once material is finalised.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	30 November 2022	22-B-0761 – Briefing - Delegating decision making for transfer of Ruapehu Alpine Lift's concessions	Released in part – 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(j)
2	8 August 2023	23-B-0344 – Principles for Delegation of Ministerial powers to DOC officials	To be released in part via tranche 2 of our response
3	21 February 2024	24-B-0073 - Briefing - Mt Ruapehu Tūroa concession – Decision making	Released in part – section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(h)

I have decided to release relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under 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,

- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Stacey Wrenn
Director, Regulatory Delivery
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai