

15 May 2024

Stephen Prendergast

fyi-request-26448-16970b10@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 16 April 2024, in which you asked for:

1) The appointment documents including all related correspondence for the Report writer as well as the other members of the hearings panel for the Turoa Concession Application by Pure Turoa.

2) Correspondence between DOC and the Report writer and the hearings panel during the period of the hearings and the submission of the report.

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. The appointment documents including all related correspondence for the Report writer as well as the other members of the hearings panel for the Turoa Concession Application by Pure Turoa.*

The report writer and other members of the hearings panel were appointed verbally. We have identified three related documents within the scope of this request, Conflict of Interest forms for the report writer and other hearing panel members, which are listed as items 1 to 3 in the table at the bottom of this response for your reference.

- 2. Correspondence between DOC and the Report writer and the hearings panel during the period of the hearings and the submission of the report.*

Item 4 in the table includes all correspondence between DOC, the Report Writer and the hearings panel during the period of the hearings and the submission of the report (26 February 2024 to 28 March 2024). To avoid duplication of emails, we have collated email chains (which include previous emails) in chronological order where possible.

Items 5-7 are attachments contained within the correspondence.

I have decided to release relevant parts of the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,

Please note that item 6 (although within scope of your request) is withheld in full via section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act. The draft version of this document is withheld 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 Official Information Act 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 Official Information Act.

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 Stephanie Bowman, Permissions Regulatory Delivery Manager, by email to sbowman@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Stacey Wrenn
Director Regulatory Authorisations (acting)
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	19/02/2024	Report writer C Norgate conflict of interest form	Released in full
2	20/02/2024	S Bowman Conflict of interest form	Released in full
3	18/03/2024	C Green Conflict of interest form	Released in part
4	26/02/2024- 28/03/2024	Correspondence between DOC and the Report writer and the hearings panel	Released in part
5	19/03/2024	Pure Tūroa Submission themes spreadsheet	Released in full
6	19/03/2024	Draft Objections and Submissions Summary Report	Withheld in full
7	28/03/2024	Final Objections and Submissions Summary Report	Released in part