



**File refs: LCO-01, OIA-15-E-69**

27 March 2015

Bret Stewart

By email: [XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XXX.XX](mailto:XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX.XXX.XX)

Dear Bret

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST – METHODS OF INTERROGATION**

I refer to your email of 5 March 2015 in which you said:

*“I was interrogated by officers from the New Zealand Department of Conservation at the Thames office. This was the culmination of an investigation that started less than two weeks prior to October 30th, 2004 - the approximate date of interrogation.*

*I would like to request information relating to methods of interrogation used by the Department of Conservation.”*

I have made all reasonable inquiries with Department staff who may have had knowledge of your case, but these have been unsuccessful and I am informed that there are no notes or records of meetings held with you. Therefore I regret that I must decline your request as the information does not exist or cannot be found (section 18(d) Official Information act refers). I should emphasise that there have been a number of staff changes in the Department since 2004 and, unless you are able to provide more specific detail, I will be unable to provide a different response.

However as a general statement, the Department’s standard approach to investigating any issue is to collect information and interview relevant parties. The Department does not subscribe to a particular style or method of interview, but our warranted officers/investigators are required to act lawfully, and with all reasonableness and fairness while carrying out their duties.

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

Please feel free to contact Geoff Owen, National Manager – Compliance ([gowen@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gowen@doc.govt.nz)) should you have further questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Coutts'.

**Damian Coutts**  
Director Conservation Services  
Lower North Island  
for Director-General