

Nigel Gray

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House**

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3 June 2026

**Ref: OIAD-6316**

Tēnā koe Nigel

Thank you for your subsequent request to the Department of Conservation (and connected to OIAD-6189 (our reference)), received on 7 May 2026, in which you stated and asked:

*“ Thank you for your response of 28 April 2026 regarding OIAD-6189.*

*After reviewing the material provided, I require clarification on several points to ensure I correctly understand the Department’s position.*

*My refined request of 26 March 2026 sought governing documents that define or describe:*

- *the purpose of DOC’s use of 1080*
- *the intended end-state or outcome*
- *the intended duration of 1080 use*
- *any changes to these over time*

*Your response states:*

*“DOC does not have a stand-alone ‘1080 programme’, with its own purpose, end goal, and intended duration. As a result, much of the overarching documentation you have requested does not exist.”*

*To avoid any misunderstanding, I am seeking clarification on the following points:*

**1. Defined Purpose of 1080 Use**

*Please confirm whether DOC has ever produced any document — internal or external — that defines the purpose of DOC’s use of 1080 as a predator-control tool.*

*If such a document exists, please provide:*

- *the title*
- *the date it was written*
- *the exact wording used to define the purpose*

*If no such document has ever existed, please confirm this explicitly.*

**2. Defined End-State or Intended Outcome**

*Please confirm whether DOC has ever produced any document that defines the intended end-state of 1080 use (e.g., eradication, long-term suppression, transitional use until replacement tools are available, or indefinite use).*

*If such a document exists, please provide:*

- *the title*
- *the date it was written*
- *the wording that defines the intended end-state*

*If no such document has ever existed, please confirm this explicitly.*

3. *Intended Duration of 1080 Use*

*Please confirm whether DOC has ever produced any document that defines the expected duration of 1080 use, including whether it was intended to be:*

- *temporary*
- *short-term*
- *medium-term*
- *long-term*
- *indefinite*

*If such a document exists, please provide:*

- *the title*
- *the date it was written*
- *the wording that defines the intended duration*

*If no such document has ever existed, please confirm this explicitly.*

4. *Withheld Material Under s9(2)(g)(i)*

*Your response indicates that parts of several documents were withheld under s9(2)(g)(i).*

*To assist me in understanding the Department's position, please confirm whether any of the withheld material relates to:*

- *the purpose of 1080 use*
- *the intended end-state*
- *the intended duration*
- *internal reasoning or assessments relating to these matters*

*If so, please identify which documents contain such material.*

5. *Substitution of Ecosystem-Level Strategies*

*Your response refers to the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy, Predator Free 2050 Strategy, and the National Predator Control Programme.*

*For clarity, please confirm whether DOC considers any of these documents to constitute:*

- *a formal statement of the purpose of 1080 use*
- *a formal statement of the intended end-state of 1080 use*
- *a formal statement of the intended duration of 1080 use*

*If so, please identify the specific sections or wording that DOC relies on.*

*I would appreciate your clarification on the above points so that I can accurately understand the Department's position and determine the next steps. "*

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

Before proceeding to the Department's response to your subsequent request, we have provided some relevant contextual information and outlined our approach to this request.

**Obligation to provide official information**

A distinction under the OIA exists between a request for information already known to and held by an agency (official information); and a request to an agency to form an opinion or provide an

explanation or comment and thus create new information to answer the request (not official information).

There is no obligation on an agency, such as the Department, to form an opinion, provide an official position, or create information to answer a request or question – or respond to commentary. Consequently, the Department’s responses will generally not provide any perspective or view and will be specific to fact only.

Further, the OIA is not an avenue for engagement, consultation or dialogue. It was not enacted for this purpose.

### **Approach to this request**

Your subsequent request was received after the Department responded to your clarified request. Consequently, there may be some overlap with the information supplied in this response letter and the Department’s letter dated 28 April 2026.

In addition to determining what information it holds, the Department must also decide how the information will be released. Section 16 of the OIA allows information to be made available in several ways in response to a request.

Information can be provided in a narrative and/or summarised form where not doing so would unreasonably impact the normal functions of the agency responding. Please note the Department has decided to provide certain information you have requested in these forms.

### **Department’s response to your subsequent request**

When approaching OIAD-6124, the Department noted your interest in the purpose, end-goal and duration of 1080 use by the Department.

Your subsequent request is comprised of five parts. We have used your ‘numbering’ and ‘headings’, as follows.

Where we note information is not held, or information has not been located following searches, those parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist and/or despite reasonable efforts, the information has not been found.

#### **1. *Defined Purpose of 1080 Use***

#### **2. *Defined End-State or Intended Outcome***

#### **3. *Intended Duration of 1080 Use***

We reiterate our earlier advice to you that the Department does not have or hold a stand-alone “1080 programme” document, with its own purpose, end goal, and intended duration (or alternatively a document or documents containing any one or more of the three ‘elements’ noted).

Such a document does not, or documents do not, exist - nor is the Department aware of any document(s) produced externally of the Department.

1080 is considered a pest control tool, which is used to help achieve the goals of the Department's biodiversity protection programmes.

Consequently, the Department's response to OIAD-6189:

- referenced:
  - the *Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy* - which provides the purpose, end-goal, and intended duration of the Department's pest control work, including the use of predator control tools such as 1080. As directed before, refer to: Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 | <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf>
  - the *Predator Free 2050 Strategy* – see: Innovate for a predator-free New Zealand. Predator Free 2050 Strategy (2026–2030) | <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/pf2050/innovate-for-a-predator-free-new-zealand.pdf>; and
  - the *National Predator Control Programme* – refer to National Predator Control Programme: Our work | <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme/>.
- included:
  - copies of:
    - the National Predator Control Programme's current *Four-year predator control operational plan* - an overview of the rationale for the predator control operations currently being undertaken;
    - *Animal pest systems summary for managers* - a high-level operational summary of the standards and management controls the Department applies to animal pest control operations, including the use of 1080;
    - *Operational planning for animal pest operations SOP* - the planning process and standards the Department applies when controlling animal pests, which includes the use of pest control tools such as 1080; and
    - *1080 pesticide review report* – a summary of the current scientific knowledge about the environmental effects of 1080, that guides the Department's technical assessment of 1080 as a potential pest control tool.
  - narrative related to:
    - deciding whether, when and where to use of 1080 for predator control, if it is the best available option following assessment of all available options; and
    - an indication of support, approval and endorsement of the use of 1080 as a tool for predator control in New Zealand.

#### **4. Withheld Material Under s9(2)(g)(i)**

The Department's response withheld by way of redactions a small amount of information under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA, not section 9(2)(g)(i).

Section 9(2)(g)(ii) is used to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment. In this case, the information withheld was connected to the names of specific people linked to programmes and/or reviews/updates of documents.

None of the material withheld relates to:

- *the purpose of 1080 use,*
- *the intended end-state,*
- *the intended duration, and/or*
- *internal reasoning or assessments relating to these matters.*

#### **5. Substitution of Ecosystem-Level Strategies**

The Department does not consider that any of the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy, Predator Free 2050 Strategy, and the National Predator Control Programme documents constitute a formal statement of the:

- *purpose of 1080 use;*
- *intended end-state of 1080 use; and/or*
- *intended duration of 1080 use.*

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



Kelley Reeve  
Director, Governance and Government Services  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*