

Levonne Scott

fyi-request-34844-
1928ec4a@requests.fyi.org.nz

07 July 2026

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai /
Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-9242

Tēnā koe Levonne

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 03 June 2026, in which you asked for:

“... information regarding the funding and financial accountability records held by the Department of Conservation in relation to the Matuku Reserve Trust (also operating as Matuku Link, Charity Registration: CC53807).

Specifically, I request copies of the following documents spanning the last 10 years (2016 to the present date):

- Funding Agreements & Grant Allocations: all documentation outlining the exact terms, conditions, and dollar amounts for grants allocated to the Trust, including but not limited to the Nature Heritage Fund baseline grant, the Jobs for Nature (Mahi mō te Taiao) allocations, and the DOC Community Fund grants (such as the \$640,000 willow eradication project funding).*
- Accountability & Milestone Reports: copies of all financial acquittal forms, progress updates, ledger declarations, and project milestone reports submitted by the Matuku Reserve Trust to DOC to verify how these allocated public funds were spent.*
- Audited/Declared Statements: any internal financial declarations or balance disclosures supplied by the Trust to the Department as part of their ongoing grant compliance and monitoring.”*

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

On 25 June we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 8 July due to the consultation necessary.

During the period from 2016 until the date of your request, the Matuku Reserve Trust received three grants across the funds you have specified. One from the Nature Heritage Fund (2016) and two from the DOC Community Fund (2020 and 2023).

There were no Jobs for Nature grants made from the Department of Conservation to the Matuku Reserve Trust. They were funded indirectly via a Jobs for Nature grant that the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) received. As such, the Department does not hold reporting or financial records in relation to the funding that the Trust received from SBN.

In terms of the Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) and DOC Community Fund (DOCCF) grants, the documents you have requested have the following naming conventions:

Requested	NHF file name	DOCCF file name
Funding agreements	Deed of Agreement	Deed of Grant
Grant allocations	<i>Summarised in Table 1</i>	<i>Summarised in Table 1</i>
Accountability & Milestone reports	N/A – no such reports	Progress Reports, Annual Reports & Final Reports
Financial reports	N/A – no such reports	Summary of Expenses, Summary Financial Report
Audited Statements	None received	None received

All documents that fall within the scope of your request are listed in the “Items Table” in Appendix 1. Grant allocations and payments are summarised in the table below.

Table 1: Grant payments to Matuku Reserve Trust (excluding GST)

	DOCCF6	DOCCF7	NHF
TOTAL Grant	\$32,640	\$605,540	\$300,000
Payment 1	\$16,320 <i>October 2020</i>	\$52,978 <i>December 2023</i>	\$300,000 <i>November 2016</i>
Payment 2	\$13,056 <i>April 2021</i>	\$52,978 <i>August 2024</i>	-
Payment 3	\$3,264 <i>December 2021</i>	\$52,978 <i>February 2025</i>	-
Payment 4	-	\$52,978 <i>March 2025</i>	-
Payment 5	-	\$50,016 <i>May 2025</i>	-
Payment 6	-	\$150,048 <i>December 2025</i>	-
Payment 7	-	\$48,391 <i>June 2026</i>	-
BALANCE	\$0	\$145,173	\$0

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in Appendix 1, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal information, 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,

Please note, we are unable to provide all attachments referenced in the DOCCF7 progress reports, as provision of this material would require substantial collation. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. However, we have provided a Summary Financial Report that shows how funds have been spent.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David van der Zouwe', enclosed within a faint circular stamp or seal.

David van der Zouwe
Director Strategic Partnerships and Investment
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Appendix 1: Documents for OIAD-9242

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
<i>Nature Heritage Fund 2016: Grant towards purchase price of land, \$300,000 (NHF15-11)</i>			
1.	1 November 2016	Nature Heritage Fund Deed of Agreement	Released in part
<i>DOC Community Fund, 2020: "Growing Matuku Link" - \$32,640 (DOCCF6-168)</i>			
2.	21 October 2020	Deed of Grant of Funds	Released in part
3.	12 April 2021	Progress Report 1	Released in part
4.	10 October 2021	Final Report	Released in part
5.	November 2021	Summary of Expenses	Released in part
<i>DOC Community Fund, 2023: "Increasing Mauri for Matuku" - \$605,540 (DOCCF7-094*)</i>			
6.	17 November 2023	<i>Deed of Grant</i>	<i>previously provided</i>
7.	11 March 2024	Progress Report 1	Released in full
8.	15 May 2024	Y1Q2 Progress Report	Released in part
9.	20 May 2024	Progress Report 2	Released in full
10.	12 August 2024	Progress Report 3	Released in part
11.	15 November 2024	Annual Report Year 1 / Progress Report 4	Released in part
12.	13 March 2025	Progress Report 5	Released in part
13.	16 May 2025	Progress Report 6	Released in part
14.	11 December 2025	Progress Report 7	Released in full
15.	15 December 2025	Progress Report 8 - one section of missing information due to technical issues with download	Released in full
16.	26 May 2026	Progress Report 9	Released in full
17.	29 May 2026	Summary Financial Report	Released in part