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Ref: OIAD-9250

03 July 2026

Tēnā koe Peter

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 05 June 2026, in which you asked:

Please provide documentation supporting the notion that the Department meets the costs of core conservation work in respect of the Wellington Harbour island reserves.

I confirm the Department holds responsibility for core conservation work on the Wellington Harbour Islands Reserves. The 2008 Deed of Settlement of Historical Claims between Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika, the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust and Crown provides for a joint-iwi Crown body in the administering of the islands, as does the subsequent settlement Act of 2009. The Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board was therefore established to administer the islands, while DOC continues the management of the Harbour Islands Reserves.

Those arrangements are ongoing. The way costs of conservation and other work on the Harbour Islands is met is shown in the attached latest Operational Report from the Department to the Board (May 2026). This particularly includes a budget recording the Department's revenue and expenditure, as well as revenue from other sources, such as nearly \$175,000 in international visitor levy funding.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	May 2026	Matiu Operational Report May 2026	Released in part – s9(2)(a)

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

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

Some information is considered out of scope of this request as it relates to introductions of new team members.

Funding for the management of the Wellington Harbour Islands Reserves is determined annually as part of the department's budget process. This includes a small budget to support the work of our highly valued volunteers, who make a significant contribution to achieving our conservation goals for the Islands.

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 cursive script, appearing to read 'A Heather'.

Alice Heather
Director Operations – Lower North Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai