

18-E-0703

15 November 2018

Request to DOC - fyi-request-8731-231375d7@requests.fyi.org.nz
Request to MOC - fyi-request-8730-38610620@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Benjiman

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 20 September 2018. On 9 October 2018 we extended your request to 15 November 2018 due to the large quantity of information sought. Your question regarding the tahr cull and our response, is listed below:

'all correspondence between Minister Sage and the Department of Conservation in regards to the Himalayan Tahr management since she became minister'

The documents listed below fall within the scope of your request and can be found at the following link <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/oia/2018/tahr-control-oia-responses.pdf>

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	3 November 2017	Departmental Memo – Tahr Control Report	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)
2	10 November 2017	Departmental Memo – Response to Follow up Questions – Tahr Control Report	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)
3	8 June 2018	Departmental Memo – Follow-up Meeting with NZDA, on 11 June 2018	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)
4	27 September 2018	Departmental Memo – Tahr Liaison Group Meeting – Monday 1 October 2018	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted) Attachment 2 – Brief Biographies – withheld under 9(2)(g)(ii)
5	1 October 2018	Meeting Notes from Tahr Liaison Group – 1 October 2018: draft for TLG representatives to review/confirm	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)
6	13 July 2018	Departmental Memo – Wild Animal Control (including tahr) and Pastoral Leases	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)
7	2 July 2018 – 24 September	Status Report items relating to the Tahr control	Released in part (Names and Legal advice redacted)

	2018		redacted)
8	9 May 2018 - 18 September 2018	Emails of Correspondence between Minister of Conservation and Department of Conservation	Released in part (Names, Legal advice and Administrative contents redacted)

'how population numbers were obtained, percentage of variation; potential revenue loss for country'

In 2014, a report on historic tahr impact monitoring was completed by Landcare Research. This revealed significant impacts of tahr on tussock and vegetation cover and concluded that the current tahr monitoring to estimate population numbers was not meeting the requirement of the 1993 Plan.

To address this, in the 2015/16 summer, DOC began a trial to integrate tahr abundance and impact monitoring with the national-level monitoring (Tier 1) undertaken as part of its Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System. Additional measurements targeted at estimating tahr abundance (helicopter aerial counts) were added to the programme for implementation at 111 sampling locations over a 5-year period within the tahr management units and exclusion zones.

Analysis of the tahr abundance (helicopter aerial counts) data collected from 2015-2017 at 38 sites was completed and a population estimate were obtained. The report detailing the method, analysis, results and confidence intervals is provided below

Item	Document description	Decision
1	<u>Report</u> Tahr density estimates from aerial surveys (DOC-3233856). Available on DOC website: https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/parks-and-recreation/hunting/west-coast/tahr-density-estimates.pdf	Released in full

The Department of Conservation has not completed any analysis of the potential revenue loss for New Zealand.

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 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,
- 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,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

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.

If you wish to discuss this response to your request, please contact Andy Roberts on phone number 027 280 9186 or by email: aroberts@doc.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Andy Roberts
Director – Operations, Eastern South Island