

18 April 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 02 April 2024, in which you asked the following questions:

- 1. What has been done so far in terms of working through options?*
- 2. What is the main issue facing the treaty partners and yourself in making a decision on the future of the chateau?*
- 3. What is being done in terms of maintenance on the Chateau in the meantime and who is responsible for the funding of this?*
- 4. Are you the best person to contact for all future questions on the Chateau Project?*
- 5. As the Lead person on 'Project Chateau Tongariro' can you tell me who makes up the rest of the partners on the project and what information can the public expect to see and in what format?*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. What has been done so far in terms of working through options?

The Department is progressing the work required to consider options for the building and will need to discuss matters with our treaty partners to ensure we make a well-informed and considered decision on the future of the Chateau Tongariro. As this work is in the early stages, we are unable to comment on any potential options.

2. What is the main issue facing the treaty partners and yourself in making a decision on the future of the chateau?

The Department is unable to speak on behalf of our treaty partners however from the Department's perspective, one of the key issues relates to the potential cost of investment to seismically strengthen the Chateau Tongariro and to undertake repairs and maintenance work.

3. What is being done in terms of maintenance on the Chateau in the meantime and who is responsible for the funding of this?

The Department is currently responsible for operating and maintaining the Chateau and continues to undertake work from a security, compliance and health and safety perspective. The costs of undertaking this work are being met by the Department.

4. Are you the best person to contact for all future questions on the Chateau Project?

The Project Lead, Julie Chuor, is the best contact person for any Chateau Tongariro related matters.

5. As the Lead person on 'Project Chateau Tongariro' can you tell me who makes up the rest of the partners on the project and what information can the public expect to see and in what format?

The Department is not partnered with any organisation or individual in respect of the Chateau Tongariro, although we have relationships with our treaty partners.

We are progressing work required to consider options for the building and will need to discuss matters with our treaty partners to ensure we make a well-informed and considered decision on the future of the Chateau Tongariro. Until progress has been made, there is no further information available for release.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

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Nāku noa, nā

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CJ Juby
Director, Business Services
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai