



OIAD-4225

19 July 2024



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 4 July 2024, in which you asked:

Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre OIA request: Please send me copies of all reports, correspondence, legal opinions and anything else that relates to the aerospace centre and the future/removal of the Lower Selwyn Huts.

The Department manages multiple concessions for private huts located at the Lower Selwyn Huts settlement. We have been working through a process for the future of these concessions following their expiry in June this year that considers our statutory documents, including the Conservation General Policy. This policy, published in 2005, states private accommodation on Public Conservation Land must be phased out. If you wish to read further on this policy, please visit our website www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-policies-and-plans/conservation-general-policy/.

I regret that I am not able to provide you with the information you seek under Section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982. The Department does not hold any reports, correspondence, or other information regarding both Tāwhaki and the Lower Selwyn Huts settlement.

Section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act refers to:

(g) that the information requested is not held by the department or venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

(i)

held by another department (for itself and for a departmental agency hosted by it or an interdepartmental executive board serviced by it) or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

For your interest, the Department has recently published an Official Information Act response regarding the Lower Selwyn Huts on its website which can be viewed at www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/2024/.



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) may be published on the Department's website.

[Redacted]

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted]

Jo Macpherson
Director Operations, Eastern South Island
Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*