

22 November 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 22 October 2024, in which you asked for:

'Any reports into the condition or future of Chateau Tongariro produced in the past three months, as well as correspondence about the building between DOC and Minister Potaka's office, and DOC and the Ruapehu District Council, in the past three months.'

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. Any reports into the condition or future of Chateau Tongariro produced in the past three months.

We have identified two reports within scope of this aspect of your request. The document outlined below is provided and accompanies our response as Attachment 1 (item 1).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	19 August 2024	Chateau Tongariro DSA Peer Review Report	Released in part

The other in scope document known as - *'Building Services Condition Assessment Report Rev 1 August 2024'* is withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) - to enable maintain legal privilege. Until end of lease matters are finalised with KAH NZ this document cannot be released.

2. Correspondence about the building (relating to the condition or future of the Chateau Tongariro) between DOC and Minister Potaka's office in the past three months.

We have identified the following material as being in scope of this aspect of your request. This material accompanies our response as Attachment 2 (items 1 – 3). Please note that item 4 has been proactively released and is accessible via the link provided.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	23 July to 23 October 2024	Various emails concerning the Chateau Tongariro	Released in part
2	N/A	Attachment appended to emails under attachment 2 Item 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chateau Tongariro Detailed Seismic Assessment (DSA) Geotechnical Report 	Released in part
3	24 September 2024	Attachment appended to emails under attachment 2 Item 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chateau Tongariro Expression of interest update 	Released in full
4	12 August 2024	Attachment appended to emails under attachment 2 Item 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-B-0385 SIGNED Abandoned Buildings – Chateau Tongariro Expression of Interest Process 	Released in part – accessible at: oiad-4509-attachment-1

We have also identified the following in scope documents which are withheld in full:

- “*CBRE Part A – Feasibility Review DRAFT 0724*” this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(i) - to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; and
- *24-B-0281 Briefing – Chateau Tongariro Options for Next Steps* this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- *Cabinet Paper - Chateau Tongariro Options for Next Steps* - this document is withheld in full subject to section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials

3. Correspondence about the building (relating to the condition or future of the Chateau Tongariro) between DOC and the Ruapehu District Council in the past three months.

We have identified the following material as within scope of your request. This material accompanies our response as Attachment 3 (item 1 – 3).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	25 to 21 August 2024	Various emails between the Department and the Ruapehu District Council	Released in part

2	21 August 2024	Attachment appended to emails under attachment 3 Item 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of the Chateau Tongariro to the Ruapehu economy 	Released in part
3	24 September 2024	Attachment appended to emails under attachment 3 Item 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of the Chateau Tongariro to the Ruapehu economy (Updated letter to Min of Conservation 002) 	Released in part

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,
- 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,
- out of scope – information that is not relevant to the request received.

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.

[Redacted signature area]

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted signature]

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