

3 September 2024

[REDACTED]

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 18 July 2024, in which you asked for:

1. *All correspondence between Minister Potaka's office and DOC officials (tier 2 leaders and above) on the \$25M boost to conservation that was announced on 10 July 2024.*
2. *All advice provided to Minister Potaka from DOC on the \$25M boost to conservation that was announced on 10 July 2024.*

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

On 15 August 2024 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 30 August 2024 due to the consultation necessary.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *All correspondence between Minister Potaka's office and DOC officials (tier 2 leaders and above) on the \$25M boost to conservation that was announced on 10 July 2024.*

There was no correspondence between Minister Potaka's office and DOC officials (tier 2 leaders and above) on the \$25M boost to conservation that was announced on 10 July 2024. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

2. *All advice provided to Minister Potaka from DOC on the \$25M boost to conservation that was announced on 10 July 2024.*

The relevant advice is listed in the table below.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	22 February 2024	24-B-0043 - IVL proposed investment projects - 2024	Released in part - s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)
2	1 March 2024	24-B-0111 - Final International Visitor Levy Projects and Supplementary Information	Released in part - s9(2)(a), s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)
3	8 May 2024	24-B-0224 - International Visitors Levy - Proposed IVL projects May 2024	Released in part - s9(2)(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

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,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- commercially sensitive information, under 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.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Siân Roguski  
 Director Policy  
 Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*