

14 August 2024



Tēnā koe 

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

- “* Please release the most recent HPAI preparedness reports that you can. Please note I intend to continue OIAing these for the foreseeable future.*
- * The response letter mentions that DoC is no longer using Incident Action Planning Sheets - have these been replaced? If so, please add any documents containing their replacements. If not, is DoC now just using the preparedness reports?*
- * The preparedness report also mentions seeking advice on the potential for seals to bring H5N1 into NZ. Please provide this advice if it is ready. If not, please let me know when you think it will be ready and the current status of the advice.”*

You then added a request for:

“If meeting minutes are taken for the weekly IMT meetings, please provide the minutes for the last four meetings.”

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

We have agreed with you that future preparedness reports can be shared with you soon after production, and that you will contact Fiona Oliphant to request these monthly. Minutes are not taken at the weekly IMT meetings so these cannot be provided.

You asked whether we had replaced Incident Action Planning Sheets. These have not been replaced with a similar plan or report. The preparedness reports are the only regular internal reporting document that DOC now produces.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	19 July 2024	DOC HPAI Preparedness Situation Report #21	Released in part
2	24 June 2024	Seal records from New Zealand and Antarctica in relation to HPAI	Released in full.
3	11 July 2024	Time for a southern elephant seal to travel from Antarctica to New Zealand in relation to HPAI	Released in full

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

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



Tim Bamford
 Director Terrestrial Biodiversity (Acting)
 Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai