

19 August 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 23 July 2024, in which you asked for:

*“...all ministerial docs (including aides memoire, reports, briefings, updates etc) related to any of the following: decommissioning the Chateau; demolishing the Chateau, including the regulatory and legal process; end of lease negotiations with Kah; and, saving the big building alone. Please cover the period Jan 1, 2024 to the present.”*

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

Our response to questions seeking all ministerial docs (including aides memoire, reports, briefings, updates etc) for the period 1 January 2024 to 23 July 2024 in relation to various matters concerning Chateau Tongariro is provided below:

### 1. Decommissioning the Chateau

The following document is within scope of your request:

- 24-B-0063 - Briefing – Chateau Tongariro Decommissioning Options

This document is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. For context this document remains under active consideration by the Minister. Until such time that a decision is made, this document cannot be released.

Other material in scope of your request which briefly touches on this topic (Status Reports) is outlined below and accompanies our response as Attachment 1 (items 1 – 3).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	29 January 2024	Status Report for the Minister of Conservation Week beginning 29 January 2024	Released in part.

2	17 June 2024	Status Report for the Minister of Conservation Week beginning 17 June 2024	Released in part.
3	15 July 2024	Status Report for the Minister of Conservation Week beginning 15 July 2024	Released in part.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under the following section of the Official Information Act:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

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.

## **2. Demolishing the Chateau including the regulator and legal process**

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information requested does not exist. For context no documents concerning demolition of the Chateau Tongariro (between the period of 1 January 2024 to 23 July 2024) have been provided to the Minister.

## **3. End of lease negotiations with KAH**

No documents focused on end of lease negotiations with KAH New Zealand Limited (between the period of 1 January 2024 to 23 July 2024) have been provided to the Minister. In scope Ministerial material where end of lease negotiations are briefly touched upon are provided (Status Report items) and outlined in our response to question 1.

## **4. Saving the big building alone**

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information requested does not exist. For context no documents concerning saving the Chateau Tongariro alone as a structure (between the period of 1 January 2024 to 23 July 2024) have been provided to the Minister.

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



Simon James  
Director Business Services (Acting)  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*