



File Ref: 17-E-114

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Sieska Verdonk
NZ Herald Local Focus
sieska@localfocus.nz

Dear Sieska

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your official information request dated 21 March 2017 for the following:

May I please have the following information in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982, which the Department of Conservation is liable to comply with.

Section One – Mount Bruce

1. *“What has been the total population of radiotagged (and non radiotagged if any different) Kiwi in the Pukaha Mt Bruce restoration project every year for the last 10 years?”*

The following table details the number of monitored at Pukaha Mount Bruce each year:

YEAR	# of MONITORED KIWI	YEAR	# of MONITORED KIWI
2016	7	2011	43
2015	10	2010	48
2014	12	2009	18
2013	12	2008	21
2012	14	2007	18

From 2011 transmitters were removed from all female kiwi. The purpose of monitoring kiwi is to retrieve eggs from nesting (male) birds.

A kiwi call monitor conducted in 2016 indicates that there were likely to be five to ten (non-transmitterd) kiwi in the Reserve. No other data is available regarding non-transmitterd birds as the first count occurred in 2016.

2. *“How many Kiwi have been released into the Pukaha Mt Bruce restoration project over the last 10 years?”*

The following table details the number of kiwi released into Pukaha Mt Bruce since 2007;

YEAR	KIWI RELEAS ED	YEAR	KIWI RELEAS ED
2016	3	2011	15
2015	7	2010	30
2014	9	2009	6
2013	19	2008	3
2012	11	2007	2

3. "How many Kiwi have been born (from kiwis already in the project) into Pukaha Mt Bruce over the last 10 years?"

In March 2017, the 100th Operation Nest Egg (O.N.E) chick was hatched at Pukaha Mount Bruce.

4. "How many Kiwi have died while in the Pukaha Mt Bruce project over the last 10 years?"

The following table details the number of kiwi deaths recorded each year since 2007.

YEAR	Kiwi	CAUSE OF DEATH
2016	4	Predation
2015	9	Predation
2014	1	Predation
	1	Blunt trauma
2013	1	Coccidia
	1	Blunt trauma
2012	3	Predation
	1	Emaciation
	1	Egg complications
	2	Too decayed to determine
2011	3	Predation
	1	Drowned
	1	Blunt trauma
	1	Too decayed to determine
2010	12	Predation
2008	5	Predation

5. "How many Kiwi have been relocated out of the Pukaha Mt Bruce project?"

Nil.

6. "Of those that died, what were the causes of death?"

Refer to response for question 4.

7. "How many Kiwi that died over the last 10 years have been tested for poison residue?"

In 2014 one dead kiwi chick was found immediately following a 1080 aerial application and tested for 1080 residues. No 1080 residues were detected.

8. "Can I please have the number of mustelids, rats, possums, pigs and cats recorded each year within the Pukaha Mount Bruce project for the last 10 years?"

YEAR	Total Mustelid	Total Rats	Total Cats
2009 - Months 09-12	1	106	0
2010	84	709	7
2011	91	1089	12
2012	70	509	27
2013	86	697	12
2014	88	756	15
2015	53	452	8
2016 - Months 01-05	52	312	3

We only have this data from 2009. No pigs or possums have been caught.

9. "How many aerial 1080 poison drops have taken place directly over, or within 10 kilometres of the Pukaha Mount Bruce restoration project?"

1080 has been applied aerially three times, all inside the Reserve.

10. "In what years did the 1080 poison drops occur?"

The aerial application of 1080 occurred in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

11. "In bait stations in or within a 10 kilometre radius of the Pukaha Mt Bruce project, was any kind of Bromethalin, Chlorophacinone, Diphacinone or any other Rodenticide used? If so, what? And how much?"

Please see the summary of pesticides used in the Reserve attached as Appendix A. Brodifacoum has been used in properties neighbouring the reserve.

12. "If any of the above was used in bait stations, is it known to the Department of Conservation if any food source of the Kiwi bird is known to ingest the poisons? Either on purpose or regularly on accident"

Native invertebrates are at minimal risk from 1080. Direct counts and studies using pitfall traps to monitor ants, beetles, weevils, millipedes, mites, slugs, snails, spiders and cave wētā have shown no significant change in population numbers after an aerial operation. Separate studies on giant and tree wētā also found no negative impacts from 1080.

13. "Is it possible that the Kiwi could have accessed any bait stations and ingested poisons or other pest controlled substances?"

The bait stations used at Pukaha have a stainless steel "baffle" inserted to prevent birds from entering them.

Section Two – Okahu Valley

1. "In the last 10 years have there been any aerial poison 1080 drops in the valley or within a 10 kilometre radius?"

There has been no 1080 applied aerially or in bait stations to the Okahu Valley. In the last ten years, there have been several in a 10km radius of the valley as described below:

Year	Operation name	Lead agency	Department of Conservation involvement	Size of operation	Operation Location description	Distance of operation boundary from Okahu Valley road
2015	Whirinaki Mangakahika – Whio 2015	TB free NZ	Partial funding, PCL permission, advocacy	16 803 Ha	Southern Whirinaki Te Pua a Tane conservation park	2km south and west of Okahu valley road
2012	Te Urewera sectors 1 – 6, Ruatahuna 2012	TB free NZ	PCL permission	55 269 Ha	A large operation in the southern Te Urewera & Whirinaki Te Pua a Tane conservation park	2km south of Okahu valley road end
2010	Whirinaki Rata bovine tuberculosis 2010	TB free NZ	PCL permission, Advocacy	4 213 Ha	The ridges between Minginui and Okahu Valleys in the Whirinaki Te Pua a Tane conservation park	2km west of Okahu valley road

2. "How many Kiwi eggs and/or birds has the Department of Conservation taken out of the valley?"

Since 1999, 91 eggs and 7 chicks have been taken out of the Okahu valley.

3. "How many eggs and/or birds have been returned or relocated back into Okahu valley?"

No eggs or birds have been returned by human means to the Okahu valley.

4. "Can I please have the number of mustelids, rats, possums, pigs and cats recorded each year within the valley for the last 10 years?"

There are no Department of Conservation trapping programmes in the Okahu valley therefore no trap records of animals caught, The Department of Conservation does not monitor presence or abundance of these species in the Okahu valley apart from possums historically; Department of Conservation contract ground control possum blocks were run in the Okahu valley up until 2012 and were monitored using the residual trap catch (RTC) method.

Yours sincerely



Reg Kemper
Director Operations, Lower North Island

**APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF PESTICIDES USED OVER LAST TEN YEARS AT
PUKAHA MT BRUCE.**

2006

Coumatetralyl (Racumin) was applied in Philproof bait stations (300g) in September 2006. Further applications were undertaken over the parts of the reserve occupied by kokako in response to higher rat tracking rates in December.

2007

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2008

1080 cereal pellets (0.15%) were applied November 2008 in Philproof bait stations. This operation was followed up with the application of **RatAbate (Diphacinone)** 0.05% block paste. (150 grms/ baitstation).

2009

Diphacinone (RatAbate 0.05% paste) applied October 2009 in Philproof bait stations (300g baits), followed by multiple fills (3-5) of 150-300g.

2010

Diphacinone, Pestoff rat Bait 50D cereal pellets applied October 2010 in Philproof bait stations (300g baits), followed by multiple fills (3-5) of 150-300g.

2011

Cholecalciferol 8g/kg, 18g Feracol strikers, nailed to trees applied in September 2011, and **Cholecalciferol 8g/kg, 20g paste bait bags** applied in Philproof bait stations.

2012

Cholecalciferol 8g/kg, 18g Feracol strikers were attached to trees in October 2011, a minimum of 700mm above ground, at 50m intervals along bait station lines.

2013

Sodium fluoroacetate, 1080 pellets, 0.15% toxic loading was applied in October 2013 in large Philproof bait stations.

2014

Sodium fluoroacetate, 1080 RS5 6g pellets, 0.15% toxic loading.

The operational area was divided in to two blocks, one that was treated aerially and the front face that was treated using bait stations. Baits used were RS5 6gm baits with a toxic loading of 0.15% 1080.

2015

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080 0.15% Wanganui #7, 12g baits)

The operational area was divided in to two blocks, one that was treated aerially and the front face that was treated using bait stations. Baits used were RS5 6gm baits with a toxic loading of 0.15% 1080.