



18-E-0227 DOC-5495069

19 June 2018

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 17 May 2018. You requested the following:

- 1) *Annual operating funding for predator control over the last 10 years*
- 2) *The area in which predator control operations happened over the last 10 years.*

Our responses to your questions are listed below:

- 1) I have provided financial figures (below) taken from budget data of pest control spend over the last 10 years, as I think this data will be of most use to you. However, please note that the budget data is an extraction from our planning system and subject to some variability as we manage pests on an integrated site basis sometimes targeting multiple pest species, rather than on an individual pest basis. The 2017/18 data is not yet available as the year has not yet finished.

For the 'Hectares of Treatment' row please note that 2014/15 represents an under reporting of rat/mustelid treatment. The Battle for our Birds programme covered some 600,000 hectares in this year, some of which is reported as part of the possum treatment reporting. This was our first Battle for our Birds year and specific performance measures were under development for rat/mustelids and did not come into effect until 15/16.

You will see that the Department's overall spend on predator control was relatively stable up to 2011/12, but then reduced during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years due to competing budget pressures. This trend reversed with the establishment of the "Battle for our Birds" programme during the 2014/15 financial year.

- 2) The table below provides land area treated by Department of Conservation for rats, mustelids and possums over the last 10 years. Predator control operations have occurred at hundreds of sites from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island (and beyond in New Zealand's sub-Antarctic islands) during this timeframe. The growth in predator control projects, particularly community lead projects, has been huge. A major aim of Predator Free New Zealand initiatives has been to gain a national stocktake of all predator control projects being undertaken by DOC, iwi, community groups, industry groups (such as OSPRI/TB Free), NGO's, as well as local & regional councils. As yet, this information is not all collated in one place, and I have no documents I can release to further address your request. However, the Predator Free NZ Trust interactive map may in part answer your query:

<https://predatorfreenz.org/tools-resources/national-map/>

I hope this provides you a good level of information and proves a helpful response to your request. I thank you for your interest in our work to address New Zealand's biodiversity crisis and protect some of our most threatened species. For more information on our work, please see the Battle for our Birds page at:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/battle-for-our-birds/>

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely



Hilary Aikman
Director National Operations

Predator control budget since 2008

Planned Direct costs
Excludes O/heads

	Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	\$000s	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
Predator Control – Planned Direct Budget										
Possum Control		\$10,012	\$9,148	\$8,657	\$9,312	\$6,272	\$5,277	\$3,828	\$4,437	\$2,863
Rats								\$3,300	\$2,878	\$3,746
Mustelids								\$6,414	\$5,490	\$5,699
BfoB Predator Pools (eg contractors/ field supplies sourced nationally)								\$10,200	\$12,805	\$22,058
hectares treated (actual hectares)		2008-09 actual	2009-10 actual	2010-11 actual	2011-12 actual	2012-13 actual	2013-14 actual	2014-15 actual	2015-16 actual	2016-17 target
Possum treatment		187,562	285,338	223,523	234,636	184,179	180,069	357,316	164,459	163,228
Rats/mustelid treatment									190,385	711,915

