

18 February 2021

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 16 December 2020 in which you asked for:

*For a story I'm writing, can the Department of Conservation please provide all information on:*

- 1. The establishment, funding and management of the Tourism Workforce Alliance in the Whakatipu area, from April 1, 2020, to today's date, and;*
- 2. The establishment and funding of the Southern South Island Alliance (the body set up for the purpose of spending Kaimahi for Nature funding).*

*The information you provide for 1. and 2. should include, but not be limited to: correspondence, reports, communications with consultants, file notes and meeting minutes.*

*I also have the following questions*

- 1. How much of Kaimahi for Nature's \$200m allocation has been spent or allocated to specific projects; a) in New Zealand; b) in Doc's Southern South Island region; and c) in Doc's Whakatipu area, as of December 18 this year.*
- 2. How much of Kaimahi for Nature's \$200m is set aside for the Whakatipu area?*
- 3. Has the Southern South Island Alliance been established with an MOU, and if so, when, and who are the people appointed to it?*

Please note the Jobs for Nature programme was initiated in July 2020. Following the establishment phase, we have now gone through an internal assessment and it is likely we will be making some changes to our strategic approach. These changes are yet to be confirmed. We will be in touch with more information.

On 18 December 2020, we wrote to you to clarify your request. You responded that you did not wish to alter your request other than to clarify that by 'correspondence', you mean all internal and external email correspondence regarding points 1 and 2.

On 03 February 2021, we extended your request to 19 February 2021 due to the large quantity of information sought and the consultation necessary.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

A list of documents that meet part 1 of your request are provided in the Schedule of Documents at the end of this letter.

Part 2:

1. How much of Kaimahi for Nature's \$200m allocation has been spent or allocated to specific projects; a) in New Zealand; b) in Doc's Southern South Island region; and c) in Doc's Whakatipu area, as of December 18 this year.

*a) In New Zealand*

Kaimahi for Nature (KFN) funding has a total allocation of \$200M.

Out of the \$200M, \$171.5M has been allotted to regions across the country (including Chatham Islands).

Each region is encouraged to put forward projects with strong local significance, and approved projects will be taken out of their regional allotment.

As at 28 Jan, over \$76M of KFN funding has been committed to regional projects over 3 years. In addition, \$16.23M has been allocated to national projects.

*b) In Doc's Southern South Island Region*

DOC's Southern South Island region comprises Southland and Otago.

The Southern South Island has been allotted \$24.5M. Of this allotment, \$0.94M has been approved for funding across two projects, employing 63 people (full time equivalents or people employed).

*c) In Doc's Whakatipu area, as at December 18th this year*

To date, \$250,000 has been allocated to the Queenstown/Whakatipu area via the Queenstown and Fiordland Tourism Workforce Hub project.

Further Kaimahi for Nature projects in the wider region are being identified.

2. How much of Kaimahi for Nature's \$200m is set aside for the Whakatipu area?

Kaimahi for Nature allocations are determined at a regional level and no specific amount has been set aside for the Queenstown/Whakatipu area.

A group of regional partners is responsible for identifying priority projects across the region and for applying for funding.

3. Has the Southern South Island Alliance been established with an MOU, and if so, when, and who are the people appointed to it?

There is no longer a requirement to establish formal alliances, regions are working with regional partners to allocate Kaimahi for Nature funding to projects.

A draft MOU has been circulated. However, it has not yet been signed by all parties. The draft MOU is provided as a part of this response. The draft MOU identifies current



members, and aims to bring together regional council, iwi representatives, and the Department of Conservation.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in the appendix below, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- 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,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

My team contacted you on 18 December 2020 to confirm that the request may need to be refused in part as it is currently worded.

I regret that I am not able to provide you with all the information you seek, in particular your request for all communications, as to provide you with all emails would create an administrative burden to the Department. I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to the substantial amount of collation and research required to provide all email correspondence that pertain to your request.

A search indicated that over 800 emails are held by one individual that could potentially meet your request. There are approximately 10 other staff members who would be required to provide a similar number of emails.

I have borne in mind sections 18A and 18B of the Official Information Act but concluded that use of either provision would not assist in this case.

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 enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Aaron Fleming on [REDACTED] or by email [afleming@doc.govt.nz](mailto:afleming@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

Reg Kemper  
Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*



**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
Application Documents - Combined			
1	December 2020	Southern South Alliance Kaimahi for Nature Application Form	Released in part. 9(2)(a)
2	December 2020	Southern South Alliance Kaimahi for Nature Proposal Assessment Form	Released in full.
3	December 2020	Southern South Alliance RFP form	Released in full.
4	December 2020	Southern South Alliance Kaimahi for Nature Project Summary Template	Released in full.
5	-	Kaimahi for Nature Summary of Southern South Island Application Process	Released in full.
6	-	Kaimahi for Nature – Email drafts to Directors	Released in full.
SSI Alliance - Combined			
7	November 2020	Draft MOU for Kaimahi for Nature Southern South Island Alliance <i>Awaiting final signature</i>	Released in part. 9(2)(a)
8	September 2020	Jobs for Nature West Coast and Southern South Regional Alliance Update	Released in full.
9	November 2020	Kaimahi for Nature – Alliance project portfolio summary SSI	Released in part. 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
10	August, October, and December 2020	Meeting Minutes	Released in part. 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
Queenstown Workforce Docs - Combined			
11	-	Queenstown and Fiordland Workforce Hub rationale paper	Released in part. 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
12	-	Queenstown Workforce Hub Minor Business Case	Released in full.
13	-	Queenstown Workforce Hub Pilot – Post Pilot Review	Released in part. 9(2)(a)
14		Jobs for Nature Factsheet - Queenstown and Fiordland Workforce Hub	Released in part. 9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j), 9(2)(a)
15	November 2020	Queenstown Workforce Hub Pilot	Released in full.
16	June 2020	Task Assignment - Queenstown Workforce Hub Pilot	Released in full.