

13 July 2023

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 5 May 2023 in which you asked for:

“Please provide copies of any briefing papers, aides memoire, advice, memoranda or other documents which DOC has provided to Minister(s) or Cabinet since 1 January 2022 in connection with the Milford Opportunities Project, including in connection with the meeting with Dr Keith Turner on or around 7 March 2023 (23-M-9).”

On 24 May 2023, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 3 July 2023 due to the consultation required. Under section 15(1)(a) of the Official Information Act, I provided you with my decision about this request on 3 July 2023, and advised that you would be provided with the material by 13 July 2023.

The full list of documents that are in scope of your request are listed in Appendix A, which follows this letter and are contained in the attached PDF file.

Two briefings (items 23 and 24) have been withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as they are under active consideration due to the recruitment process for the Board Chair being currently active. There are also a number of briefings that are already publicly available and are therefore not included and are refused under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act. Where this is the case, the website link to these briefings is noted in the table.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the remaining documents subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- personal information, including contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- 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,
- information subject to an obligation of confidence, under section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect the supply of similar information or information from the same source



- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege.

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 which outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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

If you wish to discuss this with the Department, please contact Tim Bamford (s9(2)(a) or tbamford@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

Tim Bamford
Chief Advisor
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act



Appendix A – Table of Documents

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1	27/04/2022	22-M-0070 Talking points for interview with Tess McClure from The Guardian on MOP	Released in part
2	9/05/2022	22-M-0077 Meeting with Dr Keith Turner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes Appendix 1 and 3 	Released in part. Appendix 2: Publicly available at: www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/16517-the-milford-opportunities-project-proactiverelease-pdf (Cabinet paper)
3	25/05/2022	22-B-0303 Briefing Letters of appointment for local government members to MOP Board	Released in part
4	undated	22-B-0303 Attachment A	Released in full
5	undated	22-B-0303 Attachment B	Released in full
6	28/06/2022	22-M-0117 Meeting memo for Ministerial Group meeting	Released in part. Attachment 2: Publicly available at: www.milfordopportunities.nz/assets/Projects/MOP-Establishment-Board-TOR-May2023
7	19/07/2022	22-M-0141 Talking points for interview with Tess Brunton RNZ	Released in part
8	20/07/2022	22-M-0141 MOP Board announcement - Follow up - Talking points, press release and Q&As for Board Announcement (version 33)	Released in part
9	25/08/2022	22-M-0170 Meeting between Ministers Williams, Nash and McAnulty and Joseph Mooney MP to discuss Milford Opportunities Project	Released in part
10	26/08/2022	22-B-0576 (email) - Reactive lines on article on the Milford Opportunities Project	Released in part. Out of scope material removed.
11	23/09/2022	22-B-0624 Briefing on MOP Board draft terms of reference	Released in part. Appendix 1: Publicly available at Project details - Milford Opportunities
12	23/09/2022	22-B-0624 Attachment 3	Released in full
13	23/09/2022	22-B-0624 Attachment 4	Released in full
14	23/09/2022	22-B-0624 Attachment 5	Released in full
15	17/03/2022	22-B-0066 Options for renumeration the Chair of the Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Board	Released in part
16	10/06/2022	22-M-0089 - Memo - Meeting - Milford Opportunities Project Ministerial Group meeting with MOP Chair	Released in part Appendix 4: Cabinet paper publicly available at: www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/702



Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
			5-the-milford-opportunities-project-cabinet-paper
17	22/06/2022	22-B-0429 – Briefing Milford Opportunities Project Update	Released in part. Attachment 1 Cabinet paper March 2019: Publicly available at: www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/7025-the-milford-opprtunities-project-cabinet-paper-proactiverelease-pdf Attachment 2 Cabinet paper June 2021: Publicly available at: http://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/16517-the-milford-opportunities-project-cabinet-paper-proactiverelease-pdf
18	23/06/2022	22-B-0429 Attachment Three – Letter of remuneration to the Chair of the MOP	Released in part
19	21/09/2022	22-B-0618 - Ministerial Briefing, Minister's visit Milford.	Released in part. Appendix 5: Press release publicly available at: https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ministers-outline-next-phase-milford-opportunities-project
20	29/11/2022	Briefing: 22-B-0747: Milford Opportunities Project: Finalised Board Terms of Reference and advice on MOP Board Ministers briefing	Released in part. Attachments 1 and 2 refer to material that was provided by external entities (ie, not DOC) as part of this briefing and, as such, have been deemed out of scope and are not provided.
21	8/02/2023	Briefing: 22-B-0805: Confirming Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Board Terms of Reference, noting resignation of Chair (Dr Keith Turner) and letter to Minister of Finance requesting transfer of funds. Relates to 22-B-0747	Released in part. Attachment 2: MOP Establishment Board Term of Reference publicly available at: Project details - Milford Opportunities
22	undated	22-B-0805-Attachment 3 - Letter to Minister of Finance (Note that this letter was a draft that was not required by the Minister)	Released in full
x	31/01/2023	Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Briefing for new Minister - January 2023	Publicly available at: Briefing to the incoming Minister of Conservation 2023 (doc.govt.nz)
23	28/03/2023	23-B-0085, Briefing, MOP Board Chair Replacement	Withheld in full
24	4/05/2023	23-B-0085, Briefing, MOP Board Chair Replacement	Withheld in full



Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
25	8/03/2023	23-M-0009, Memo-Meeting - Keith Turner, Milford Opportunities Project (MOP)	Released in part
26	27/04/2023	23-B-0176, Briefing - Finalisation of Milford Opportunities Project Establishment Board Terms of Reference and project end date	Released in part
27	27/04/2023	23-B-0176- Attachment 1 - Letter to Bill Day	Released in part
28	19/10/2022	22-M-0206 - Memo - Meeting - Meeting with Rebecca Ingram, CE of Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA)	Released in part. Out of scope material removed.
29	19/11/2022	22-M-0208-Memo-Meeting-FMC meeting	Released in part. Out of scope material removed.
30	8/02/2023	23-B-0024, Policy work programme and key initiatives. Supplementary memo for the incoming Minister of Conservation	Released in part. Out of scope material removed.

Released under the Official Information Act