

From: LGOIMA
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: LGOIMA Request -Monitoring of penguin populations - Reference 2511 Friday, 22
Date: November 2024 1:45:57 pm

Kia ora [REDACTED],

We refer to your official information request dated 19 November 2024. Our response is below:

1. **You have mentioned that Tasman District Council does not undertake monitoring of penguin populations, and that this is instead carried out by other organisations.**
 - a. **I would like to inquire as to whether the Council receives any information/data arising from this monitoring?**
 - b. **If so, what is this information used for and is it reported by the Council in any formal manner?**

In response to part 1a-b. The Council has many roles set out in legislation, bylaws, plans and policies but does not have a specific role in relation to the monitoring of penguin populations. For this reason there are no legal requirements or formal processes for the Council to report on penguin populations.

However, we have received information from other organisations in relation to penguins. External parties have on occasion shared their survey results around monitoring penguin numbers with Council staff when staff have specifically reached out to these parties, however, there have been instances when data requests made to external parties have not been met or responded to.

Most recently, the Council has received information as part of the process of reviewing the Tasman District Dog Bylaw. The information highlighted areas where penguins are active. This information may be used by the Council to inform decisions it makes in relation to its dog control policy and bylaw. In addition, staff have retrieved little blue penguin records from [iNaturalist](#) - though this was not provided to Council but instead sought from a publicly accessible database. The findings of the McArthur (2020) report were presented to Council, who would therefore be aware of its findings related to penguins.

For more information, it would be advisable to contact the penguin groups directly to better understand their relationships with Council and what information they provide.

You may wish to contact the Department of Conservation around the work they do on little blue penguins and their association with Council or the other groups.

If you are unsatisfied with the Council's response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,
Legal Services Officer
