

15 July 2022



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 16 June 2022 in which you asked for:

- 1. Beds occupied per night per hut for each of the 11 Great Walks tracks during the past five Great Walk seasons (2016- 2021)*
- 2. Operational expenditure spent per hut for each of the 11 Great Walks during the past five Great Walk seasons (2016 - 2021)*

On 23 June 2022, we contacted you to provide some clarification around the information that we do and do not hold with regards to your request. You confirmed on 27 June 2022 that you were interested in receiving the information that was held by DOC.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. Beds occupied per night per hut for each of the 11 Great Walks tracks during the past five Great Walk seasons (2016- 2021)*

In July 2018, DOC changed to a new booking system. The previous booking system did not provide data on bunks occupied per night per hut for each Great Walk, so this information is not available for the 2016/17 and 2017/18 years as you have requested. The information for the 2018/19 to 2021/22 years is included in the spreadsheet attached as Item 1: *Great Walk bednights per facility per night*.

For 2016/17 and 2017/18, we have information on the total bednights by month for the Great Walks. This is included in the spreadsheet attached as Item 2: *Total bednights and visitor nights for Great Walks*. Data for the Whanganui Experience is collected separately from the other Great Walks and it is included in this spreadsheet on a separate tab accordingly.

There are some Great Walks that are only bookable for part of the year, for example Routeburn, Kepler and Milford. For those Great Walks that are only bookable for part of the year, we do not have bednight data for the non-bookable months of the year even though the huts may be used during this time.



Please note that there are ten Great Walks (not 11) and that some of the Great Walks have been closed or disrupted at times due to storms and COVID, and this will affect the bednight figures.

2. *Operational expenditure spent per hut for each of the 11 Great Walks during the past five Great Walk seasons (2016 - 2021)*

Operational expenditure per hut is not recorded. We record total operational expenditure for each Great Walk and this total includes the expenditure on the huts, Great Walk campsites, tracks, structures and hut wardens.

Operational expenditure is the sum of personnel costs, operating costs, indirect costs (such as overhead costs), depreciation and capital charge costs. The information for each of the 2016/17 to 2020/21 financial years is set out in the spreadsheet attached as Item 3: *Total operational expenditure by Great Walk 2016-2021*.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	June 2022	Great Walk Bednights per facility per night	Released
2	June 2022	Total bednights and visitor nights for Great Walks	Released
3	June 2022	Total operational expenditure by Great Walk 2016-2021	Released

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



Nāku noa, nā

Tim Bamford
Director Heritage and Visitors
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai