

31 May 2023

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Tēnā koe [Redacted]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 03 May 2023 in which you asked for:

*How much money DOC has spent, in the last three financial years, including this one, on maintaining visitor assets, including huts, tracks and structures. Break this total down by how much was deemed safety-critical work, and how much was routine maintenance or renewals.*

Over the last three years, DOC spent a total of \$224M on recreational operational costs, capital renewal, and upgrade of visitor and cultural assets. For a breakdown of expenses by financial year, see the table below. Please note that we are not able to provide you with data for 22/23, as the financial year ends 30 June 2023. For your convenience, we included data for the Financial Year 19/20 instead as to still provide you with a four-year comparative horizon.

<i>Fiscal year</i>	<i>Operational costs (\$m)</i>	<i>Capital spend (\$m)</i>	<i>Total (\$m)</i>
2021/22	58.779	16.768	<b>75.547</b>
2020/21	62.821	16.664	<b>79.485</b>
2019/20	59.215	10.034	<b>69.249</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>180.815</b>	<b>43.466</b>	<b>224.281</b>

Operational costs reflect direct spend on maintaining the recreational visitor experience. It includes staff resources, field services and equipment, and visitor asset maintenance.

Routine ongoing maintenance is recorded at an aggregated level of expenditure, and therefore, is not captured at the level of safety criticality or asset class level, i.e. huts, campgrounds, structures, and tracks. Capital spent on visitor asset renewals and upgrades is based on a prioritisation framework that includes health & safety factors, strategic alignment to conservation goals, and value for taxpayers and stakeholders.

Nāku noa, nā

[Redacted]

Catherine Wilson  
Director, Heritage and Visitors  
Department of Conservation / Te Papa Atawhai