



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

██████████
████████████████████

Our ref: RFI 6276, 6278
Date: 07 March 2014

Dear ██████████,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Information on Badger Culling

Thank you for your requests for information about cull costs and flooding impacts, which we received on 7 February. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your questions and the responses are below:

Q1) I understand the recent badger cull was industry led (farmers) and underwritten in costs by the NFU. Do DEFRA propose to alter this method and is it now envisaged to subsidise the cost of a culling area by using DEFRA (taxpayers' funds) support?

The industry continues to take the lead on using badger culling as one element of measures to tackle this costly disease. The aim of the draft TB Strategy for England is to achieve 'Officially bovine Tuberculosis Free' status for England within 25 years. The approach will include developing a new relationship between Government and the livestock industry with increased industry-led delivery and a fairer sharing of the costs involved in the tackling the disease and in putting the industry on a more sustainable footing. As part of this we intend to design and consult on a providing a more sustainable and strategic funding basis to support delivery of the wider TB strategy.

Q2) I am interested in the floods at present in the Somerset area. Will Defra be reconsidering the areas involved in the cull (if they are planned this year) after giving consideration to the massive impact on the badger population in the recent

floods?

There is currently no evidence that the national badger population has been significantly affected by the recent flooding and decisions on any future culling areas have yet to be made. Therefore at this point, it is not possible to answer this question.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on www.gov.uk together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

I have attached an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Email: ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex B

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF