



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

Our ref: RFI 5929  
Date: 15 November 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: TB Breakdowns in Cattle**

Thank you for your request for information about TB breakdowns in cattle, which we received on 18 October. 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).

Following careful consideration, we have decided not to disclose some of this information.

Your questions and the responses are below:

1. What is the best estimate of the number of herd breakdowns and cattle slaughtered due to TB in each of licensed cull pilot areas of West Somerset & West Gloucestershire over each of the last five years or at least 2012?

Statistics are not held at the level of detail you specified in your question above and therefore an estimate cannot be obtained. They are held at county level and can be found at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/incidence-of-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain>

2. What is the best estimate of number herd breakdowns/ cattle slaughters due to TB are expected to be prevented in each individual year 1-10 including cull year 1 in the cull pilot areas due to culling badgers?

The pilot culls in Somerset and Gloucestershire were undertaken to test the humaneness, effectiveness and safety of controlled shooting. If we assume that there would be a cull-roll out across the country from next year, it would be expected that there would be a 16% reduction in the incidence of TB across the country after 9 years. This reduction will vary according to local conditions and the prevalence of bTB at the outset. A detailed description of how the figure of 16% was calculated is in Annex B to the 2010 consultation - a relative 16% reduction in incidence equates to the prevention of 46.8 out of 292 breakdowns over 9 years. The link is below:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120616115816/http://archive.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/tb-control-measures/100915-tb-control-measures-annexb.pdf>

Details can also be found in the policy statement:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/69463/pb13691-bovinetb-policy-statement.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69463/pb13691-bovinetb-policy-statement.pdf)

Forecasts have not been made on how the localised culling of badgers in bTB endemic areas would change the national disease picture. Estimates are based on how the localised culling of badgers would impact on bTB at the equivalent localised level. The estimated impact of badger culling is described in the documents above. A longer term research project has been started that will confirm how culling in the pilot areas reduces bTB incidence in cattle herds.

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](http://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 also attach 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](mailto:ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **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](mailto: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