



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your ref: RFI 6201
Date: 11 February 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Impact of *Salmonella agama* in Badgers

Thank you for your request for information about the background of *Salmonella agama* in British badgers, which we received on 20 January. 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 answers are below:

Q1. Was TB diagnosed in badgers before the Second World War?

It is not possible to state with certainty when badgers in Britain first became infected with *Mycobacterium bovis* and whether this happened before or after World War II. TB infection in badgers was first documented in Switzerland as an incidental finding in the mid 1950s. In 1971, it was found in several badgers captured in Gloucestershire, when the persistence of cattle TB breakdowns in certain areas of Britain prompted MAFF to start looking for alternative potential sources of infection in wildlife.

Q2. What percentage of badgers found to have TB are also infected with *S. agama*?

Defra does not carry out surveillance for salmonellosis in badgers, so we cannot answer this question. We cannot speculate about any benefits of joint vaccination against TB and salmonellosis (assuming that there is an approved vaccine against salmonellosis). However, it is known that many factors, including concurrent infections can cause stress in badgers and lead to a reduced immune response, which could increase susceptibility to infection with *M. bovis* and the probability of infected badgers developing clinical TB.



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 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

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) 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