



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 5790  
Date: 07<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: EFFECT OF BADGER CULLING IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**

Thank you for your request for information about the effect of badger culling in the Republic of Ireland which we received on 10<sup>th</sup> September. 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).

### **1. The source of the scientific information on the effects of badger culling on reducing bTB reactors in Ireland referred to by the Minister in recent days**

The two web links below constitute the source of the information to which Defra Ministers referred:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/bovinetbbrucellosiseradicationschemes/statistics/tbstats/>

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrols/tuberculosisbandbrucellosis/tbstats/5yrExponentialCharts20002012070213.ppt>

### **2. Please can I see a copy of the advice given to the Minister by any individual/s committees tasked with such briefing on the results from Ireland and be given a copy of, or online reference to the information used and advice given.**

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, I have established that the information that you have requested is not held by Defra. The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs, which relates to information which is not



held at the time when an applicant's request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exception, which generally (that is to say, in the case of any other similarly qualified exception) means that a public authority is required to consider the balance of public interest to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, consideration of the balance of public interest would serve no useful purpose in cases where the information is in any event not held. (This is also the view of the Information Commissioner, who is the independent regulator for requests made under the EIRs.). Defra has not, therefore, considered the balance of public interest in this case.

I can confirm that to the best of our knowledge the information is not held by another public authority.

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,

Defra TB Programme

[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