

**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** 03 October 2013 09:27

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Dear [REDACTED]

Have you had chance to confer with colleagues with this request? If so and if it has been positive do you yet have an indication when you plan to put up Mr Patterson and whether I might have an opportunity to interview Profs Gibbons and Boyd in advance?

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 01 October 2013 15:44

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time just now. To recap this is our wish list:

- 1) We'd be grateful if you would be able to let us know in advance when you propose to put up Owen Patterson for the first time on the end of the cull.
- 2) As part of the coverage for this moment we'd like to interview Ian Boyd and Nigel Gibbons ideally in advance on an embargoed basis.

Best wishes and thanks again

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED] (Defra) [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** 01 October 2013 13:40

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Hi [REDACTED]

Sorry I now have an urgent meeting I have to go to at 2.30...could we talk at 3pm?

[REDACTED] | Senior Press Officer | News & External Communications | Communications Group |  
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Direct line: [REDACTED] | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Out of hours: [REDACTED] | Email: [REDACTED] | Address: Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

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**From:** [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** 30 September 2013 17:14

**To:** [REDACTED] (Defra)

**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Thanks [REDACTED]

That would be helpful. If I may I'll call you early afternoon. Is 14:30 OK?

██████████

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**From:** ██████████ (Defra) [mailto:██████████]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2013 17:05  
**To:** ██████████  
**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Hi ██████████

We haven't finalised our plans, but I'm happy to have a chat through with you tomorrow? I'm pretty free any time after 10.30 on the numbers below.

Regards,

██████████

██████████ | Senior Press Officer | News & External Communications | Communications Group |  
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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**From:** ██████████ [mailto:██████████]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2013 10:53  
**To:** ██████████ (Defra)  
**Subject:** RE: badger cull Q&A

Dear ██████████

Can I arrange to speak to you about your plans post cull? If so can you send me your number and a convenient time for me to call.

██████████

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**From:** ██████████ (Defra) [mailto:██████████]  
**Sent:** 05 September 2013 17:37  
**To:** ██████████  
**Subject:** Re: badger cull Q&A

Hi ██████████

Sorry I haven't come back to you yet. I don't think this has been established yet but I'm hoping to get some info early next week on what the publication plans are. I'll keep you posted.

██████████

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**From:** ██████████ <██████████>  
**To:** ██████████ (Defra)  
**Sent:** Thu Sep 05 17:32:15 2013  
**Subject:** Re: badger cull Q&A

Dear [REDACTED]

Have you had a chance to look into my enquiry of yesterday?

[REDACTED]-----

Hello

I wonder if one of you might be able to advise me. I was wondering when the expert panel assessing the pilots might report – and how you plan to make the report available, specifically whether it would be available in advance on an embargoed basis and any members of the panel would be on hand or available on the phone if I have any questions.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Science Correspondent

BBC News

@BBCPallab

**Please note my postal address is now: Zone D Floor 2, BBC New Broadcasting House, Portland Place, London W1A 1AA.**

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**From:** <[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> >

**Date:** Thursday, 5 September 2013 17:05

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** badger cull Q&A

Hi [REDACTED],

I noticed that a lot of the web articles are using side bars drawn from the Q&A you put together. There are a few things within the Q&A that I think could be updated. Would you mind considering the points I've made below?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22614350>

**Q: What is taking place?**

A: The trials are taking place in areas where there are a high number of TB infections in cattle to assess whether badgers can be culled humanely, safely and effectively.

The precise areas where badgers will be shot by trained marksmen have not been revealed.

One area is in West Somerset and the other is in and around West Gloucestershire.

A third area - Dorset - is being considered for a cull, but a licence is not yet in place. Dorset was a reserve area. There won't be a third pilot area in 2013.

The cull will aim to kill at least 70% of badgers across areas about the size of the Isle of Wight in each zone.

**Q: Why are badgers implicated in spreading TB?**

A: Scientific evidence has shown that bovine TB can be transmitted from cattle to cattle; from badgers to cattle and cattle to badgers; and from badger to badger.

Badgers are thought to pass on the disease to cattle through their urine, faeces or through droplet infection, in the farmyard or in cattle pastures.

However, it is not clear how big a role badgers play in the spread of bovine TB since the cows can also pass the disease on to other members of the herd.

Data from the randomised badger culling trials found that 16% of badgers were infected.

According to one estimate, in areas where TB cattle infections are high, about 50% of infections in cattle are from badgers, although this figure is disputed.

I think it should be stronger than just 'thought to' – given the high levels of TB bacteria observed in badger faeces and urine, 'most likely to' might be a better description?

**Q: Why are badgers implicated in spreading TB?**

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According to one estimate, in areas where TB cattle infections are high, about 50% of infections in cattle are from badgers, although this figure is disputed. (Who is disputing it?)

**Q: What is happening in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland?**

A: Scotland is classified as free of TB. The Welsh Assembly Government has chosen to vaccinate badgers, with trials underway in North Pembrokeshire.

Northern Ireland is conducting research into an eradication programme involving vaccination and selected culling of badgers with signs of TB infection.

The Republic of Ireland has been culling badgers since the 1980s. The latest results from Ireland show that their TB incidence rate (i.e. how many tests come back positive for TB) has fallen from 7.5% in 2000 to 4.1% in 2010 – a reduction of 45%. They are also now slaughtering less than half the cattle they were 10 years ago (18,000 down from 40,000)

██████████ | Senior Press Officer | News & External Communications | Communications Group | **Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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