

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

**Sent:** 29 October 2013 13:34

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

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: WATO

Dear [REDACTED]

I disagree with your interpretation. As you know the target of 70 per cent has to be reached in the first year and then maintained. The time set is six weeks – beyond that the continued perturbation increases the infection rate. Nigel Gibbens has made the judgement that continued culling is on balance better than doing nothing to control the disease.

[REDACTED]

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

**Sent:** 29 October 2013 13:14

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** WATO

[REDACTED],

In your intro you said the RBCT found that unless you removed 70% within six weeks the disease will be made worse – that is not true.

The RBCT found that an average 70% reduction over four years resulted in a disease reduction. It did not stipulate the length of time in which culling needed to be carried out, or at what level of population decrease disease benefits begin to accrue. That is a key part of Nigel's advice that the more badgers you remove, the greater the benefits.

Please can you correct in any subsequent reports?

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

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