



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 6209

Date: 24/02/2014

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Badger Surveys

Thank you for your request for information about Badger Surveys, which we received on 22 January 2014. 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).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

- 1. I just want to find out how you worked out how many badgers there are in England.**

The number of badgers in England was not estimated in advance of the pilots, although a project is currently underway to estimate the national population. In this project, a combination of surveys for badger setts, and estimation of social group size by identification of individuals from their DNA will be used to estimate the badger population size in England. This report is due to be published later this year.

- 2. Have you worked out exactly how big a percentage of badgers you are planning to kill this year in Gloucestershire and Somerset?**

The policy requires the badger population within the pilot areas to be reduced by at least 70% in the first year, and maintained at that level for the following 3 years.

- 3. Did you have a full England badger survey before this crazy scheme started?**

No national survey was undertaken immediately prior to the pilots. Instead, the populations living within each pilot area were estimated.

I attach an annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me and the email address below.

Yours sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

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Annex B

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

