



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Your ref: RFI 6172  
Date: 10/02/2014

Dear [REDACTED],

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Panorama**

Thank you for your request for information on correspondence within Defra and with external correspondents on the topic of an episode of Panorama on the subject of the badger cull broadcasted in November 2012, which we received on 14 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).

We found one item that would fall under the request that you submitted. This was an internal email sent on the 13 November 2012, providing a summary of the Panorama broadcast to relevant Defra officials:

*BBC Panorama last night had a very balanced report on the delays to the badger cull trials, interviewing a range of people with different stances on this issue.*

*The report linked the rise in badger population with rise in tb and farmers were very clear that badgers were responsible for the slaughter of thousands of cattle. They interviewed a farmer and filmed his herd being slaughtered due to TB. He was distressed and said he might have to leave the industry.*

*Activists said their campaign was based on tricking information from authorities by pretending over the phone to be from the NFU, Natural England, farmers etc. They said they wouldn't give up.*



*RSPCA CEO Gavin Grant denied an accusation that the RSPCA was personally intimidating farmers, saying it was a “responsible organisation”, despite appearing on camera asking for activists to find out and publically name those involved in the cull.*

*Brian May said the cull was simply unethical for such a marginal improvement to cattle that will ultimately be slaughtered anyway.*

*Dr Chris Cheeseman, who worked on the original culling trial, said he was convinced culling would spread the disease further. Nigel Gibbens disputed this conclusion.*

*NFU president Peter Kendall said the delay was caused by the surprising numbers of badgers at the last minute. He also suggested that some people in Natural England “have not been as helpful as they could have been in delivering this policy”.*

*The SoS said that he was determined to go ahead with the cull as not doing so would condemn the cattle industry to no future.*

*The programme concluded that 2012 was a dress rehearsal for a battle next summer between two entrenched sides.*

I attach Annex A, which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you.

I also attach Annex B 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 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](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