



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 5534  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: BADGER CONTROL**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the badger control pilots. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

You asked whether the proposed badger control pilots have been postponed to allow foliage to die back and, if not, how many badgers have been killed to date.

This information is not held by Defra and is therefore information not held under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs.

As publicly stated on Natural England's website<sup>1</sup>, the licence issued to each pilot area has a four year term, authorizing six-week control operations to be carried out annually between 1 June and 31 January in line with the relevant seasons for badger control, as follows:

Controlled shooting	1 February – 31 May
Cage trapping and shooting	1 December – 31 May
Cage trapping and vaccination	1 December – 30 April

The decision on the start date of operations within the open season will be taken by the licensees.

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/news/2013/270213.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/270213.aspx)



If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

**Email:** [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