



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Our ref: RFI 5612  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PAPERS OF THE INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC  
GROUP ON CATTLE TB**

Thank you for your request for papers of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG), which we received on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013. As you know, 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).

I enclose a copy of the following ISG papers that you requested:

- 748- Data on interference with trapping by anti-trial activists
- 765- Interference with trapping – Response to Paper 748
- 1624- Analysis of trap interference and trap pattern
- 1632- Levels of interference with trapping operations
- Foot & Mouth
- 462- Impact of the foot & mouth disease epidemic in the field trial and related research
- 476- Foot & mouth disease update

As you are aware, badger control is a sensitive and controversial subject. Therefore, to protect the personal security of those involved in this work, the Department routinely redacts all names and other personal details. We have taken this approach in the documents released in response to this request. The redaction of this information is covered by the exception in regulation 12(5)(a) in the EIRs, which relates to public safety.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosure of information concerning badger control, as there is an interest in transparency and accountability in controversial policy areas. However, this is a controversial area, and previous experience of some of those involved has been



intimidation by animal rights activists and some threats made to individuals and their families.

Therefore, we have concluded that, in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, and in keeping with the government's Transparency Agenda, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. Therefore, the information released to you will now be published on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. Please note that this will not include your personal data.

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