



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your ref: RFI 6136
Date: 29 January 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Experiments on Badgers

Thank you for your request for information about experiments on badgers, which we received on 30 January. 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).

You commented that Defra are conducting experiments on wild caught and home bred badgers and wanted to know the exact nature of these experiments.

Experiments include the following:

- Research on oral TB vaccines for badgers; the purpose of this programme is to look at the efficacy and safety of different oral TB vaccines and determining optimal strategies for bait deployment in wild badgers.
- Badger Immunocontraceptives; the purpose of this programme is determine whether an injectable contraceptive can reduce urban badger reproduction and associated sett expansion thereby reducing damage to property.
- Field approaches to identifying *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in badger populations; the purpose of this programme is to gather test data and samples for diagnostic test development from a well-studied wild badger population.

- A study to examine the interactions between cattle and badgers; the purpose of this project is to look at where and when badgers and cattle come in contact with each other on farms.

Further information on areas of research can be found at the links below:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ProjectList&Completed=2&AUID=1262>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ProjectList&Completed=0&AUID=1263>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ProjectList&Completed=0&AUID=1264>

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 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 have attached an annex 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 sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Email: 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) 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