



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Your ref: RFI 6261
Date: 26/02/2014

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: 'Secret' badger culling activity

Thank you for your request for information about reports of 'secret' badger culling activity which we received on 03 February 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).

You asked:

I am reliably informed that the badger cull is still being carried out in total secrecy following the publicised failure to cull enough badgers in last years official culls. Under the freedom of information act can you please confirm , where this is being carried out, when, for how long and why the public are not informed or able to receive any information on this latest government act that just pays lip service to their friends the big rich and powerful landowners.

In answer to your query, culling operations within the two pilot areas in West Somerset and Gloucestershire ended on the 01 and 30 November 2013 respectively. There has been no licensed badger culling carried out since the end of the Gloucestershire pilot. A decision on whether to proceed with a wider rollout of the policy in England will be made by Ministers once the Independent Expert Panel's humaneness report has been published.

Any evidence of wildlife crime, including illegal and unlicensed culling activity, should be passed on to the Police.

I also attach the 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,

Defra TB Programme

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