



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 5731
Date: 22/08/2013

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Please accept our sincerest apologies for the time it has taken for us to respond to your request for information dated 19 May 2013. Unfortunately, we did not receive a copy of your authorisation of transfer for this request dated 25 June 2013. We are, however, in receipt of your subsequent emails chasing a reply and are now able to provide you with a response to your request. 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).

Information regarding the methodology and reliability, validity and robustness of the hair test conducted during the survey on badger numbers in 2012 was contained in the paper which was provided to you previously.

With regard to 2013, the data is complete for one area but the analysis of this data is still to be carried out. Therefore, neither Defra (nor any of its Executive Agencies) currently hold any data regarding the methodology and reliability, validity and robustness of the hair test conducted during the survey on badger numbers in 2013.

We can confirm that the data collection technique being used is described in the following paper: ALAIN C. FRANTZ, MICHEL SCHAUL, LISA C. POPE, FRED FACK, LAURENT SCHLEY, CLAUDE P. MULLER and TIMOTHY J. ROPER (2004) Estimating population size by genotyping remotely plucked hair: the Eurasian badger. *Journal of Zoology* 41: 985-995.

You have additionally asked about the reported tampering of tests and the affect that this could have on a badger cull protocol. Since the Government is not carrying out the culling, we do not hold a badger cull protocol and we are therefore unable to comment on the affect that tampering could potentially have on such a protocol.



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 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

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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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) 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