



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 6319
Date: 24 March 2014

Dear [REDACTED],

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Numbers of badgers culled since 2000

Thank you for your request for information about numbers of badgers culled since the introduction of Freedom of Information legislation in 2000, which we received on 18 February. 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 for the numbers of badgers culled per county in the UK since the Act was put into force. The numbers of badgers culled in England are shown below

County	1998*	1999*	2000*	2001*	2002*	2003*	2004*	2005*	2013 ⁺
Avon			2		16	93	212		
Cambridgeshire			1						
Cornwall		246	629	111	566	843	441	361	
Derbyshire					66				
Devon	238	158	147	23	564	473	220	123	
Gloucestershire			34		203	270	93	172	921

County	1998*	1999*	2000*	2001*	2002*	2003*	2004*	2005*	2013 ⁺
Hereford & Worcester			55		442	546	268	272	
Somerset			100		113	205	38	53	940
Staffordshire			424		292	251	103	117	
Wiltshire			602	142	138	384	2	148	

*Badgers culled during the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT)

⁺Badgers culled during the 2013 Pilot Culls and extended culling periods

Defra does not hold data for the devolved administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Therefore regulation 12(4)(a), information is not held when the applicant's request is received.

The Regulation and Public Interest Test

Regulation 12(4)(a): Information is not held when the applicant's request is received. This is a qualified exception, which usually means that a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner, who is the independent regulator for requests made under the EIRs, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the Information Commissioner's view, Defra has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

If you require numbers for badgers culled in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, you should contact the respective administrations. The contact details are below:

Northern Ireland: please email foi@doeni.gov.uk

Scotland: please email ceu@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Wales: please email the First Point of Contact centre at wag-en@mailuk.custhelp.com

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 sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Email: 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) 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