



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Our ref:** RFI 6285  
**Date:** 12/03/2014

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Humanness Monitoring**

Thank you for your request for information about the monitoring of the pilot culls, which we received on 11 February 2014. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs). We apologise for the delay in responding to this request.

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).

A humaneness protocol covering observations to be made in the field and at post-mortem was developed prior to the pilots. This protocol will be included as an annex to the official report which is scheduled to be published early in 2014.

Please see the link to the published humaneness protocol, which provides information on how humaneness was assessed:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/244515/RFI\\_A5729.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244515/RFI_A5729.pdf)

The aim of the monitoring was to gather data to enable an assessment of the humaneness of the technique of controlled shooting and not to monitor the actions of specific marksmen. At least 60 shooting events were observed for the purposes of gathering evidence to support an assessment of humaneness of controlled shooting with rifles. Observations were spread over the whole of the culling period from week one to week six. However, not all shooting events were observed.

The release of the un-redacted humaneness protocol is subject to an appeal to the First Tier Tribunal and therefore will be withheld for the foreseeable future until the appeal is finalised. However, the full protocol will be included with the final Independent Expert Panel report when it is published in due course.

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**

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.

Most documents produced by Defra will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

---

## **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