



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Our ref:** RFI 6521  
**Date:** 14 May 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: TB Testing in Culled Badgers**

Thank you for your request for information about TB testing in culled badgers, which we received on 16 April. 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).

Your questions and the responses are below:

**Q1. Were any of the four culled badgers noted in the AHVLA humaneness report\* as being examined (by necropsy) for TB found to be TB-infected, & if so how many? Please give any relevant details, making if necessary enquiries of AHVLA as an agency of Defra.**

Four carcasses were tested on occasion at the specific request of landowners when they were concerned when a culled badger appeared to be in a poor state of health. The tests were carried out by independent veterinary surgeons away from the main laboratory where the routine post-mortems were carried out. Of the four carcasses, one carcass was found to be infected with Bovine TB. Please note that the sample size of four is very small and the results from the tests should be treated with caution.

**Q2. Please explain why this information was not provided in your RFIs 6354, 6351, 6398 dated 19 March, 28 March, 4 April respectively? These EI requests asked specifically if any culled badgers were tested for TB, but received from you only general answers that TB testing was not routinely carried out. Therefore, I request**

**that you answer this FOI/EI request as soon as possible.**

At the time of the requests dated 19 and 28 March, the AHVLA and Independent Expert Panel reports had not been published and were undergoing final proof reading and checking exercises prior to their release. Defra wished to ensure that the documents were in a complete state and wished to avoid a piecemeal release of information. It had been planned that all information, the official AHVLA report, the IEP report, Defra's response to the IEP report and so on would be released together. The result being that the public would have access to a complete suite of information. This was the best option as releasing fragments of information on an irregular basis would have been a confusing approach for those interested in the badger control policy. The response dated 4 April was sent out the day following publication and should have referred to the four private post-mortems that were carried out. Unfortunately the response was prepared prior to publication and was not updated before dispatch. Later responses have included details of the private post-mortems.

**Q3. Please state whether any badgers other than the four identified in the AHVLA report were also tested for TB, and if so provide relevant details.**

No other badgers were tested.

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](http://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](mailto: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](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