



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref: 373/14
Our ref: RFI6510
Date: 9 June 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DEFRA FUNDING OF WILDLIFE CULLS

Thank you for your email request for information about how much Defra has spent funding wildlife culls in the UK over the past five years, which we received on 7 April 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).

Wildlife control measures, including culls, are necessary to protect other animals, human health and the natural environment. Defra has supported activities as detailed overleaf. In many instances the work is to protect and conserve native fauna and / or flora from invasive non-native species.

Defra spend on funding wildlife culls over the past five years in the UK, broken down by year and by species. The table includes funds from Defra and Natural England.

	Cost (£, 000s)				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Ruddy duck	405	170	200	150	120
Monk parakeet	38	80	80	15	46.3
Non-native crayfish				55.7	45
Aquatic Invasive Non-natives (including zebra mussel and crayfish)					15
Dikerogarmmerus villosus 'killer shrimp'		60	30		
American bullfrog	7	18.5			5
African clawed toad	15	10	7		
Brown rats	18	18	28	18	18
Grey squirrel		43			
American mink			0.293		

The costs of the pilot badger culls which took place in 2013 are not yet finalised so a figure cannot be provided. Details of the costs will be released in due course, when the figures are finalised.

Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs (material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data) applies. We understand the public interest in controlling bovine TB. However, the department is not in the position to release final figures. Releasing figures before they are completed could mislead the public if they have to be corrected at a later date. This runs counter to the purpose of freedom of information which is to inform and provide clarity. We cannot estimate the date when the figures will be released as all the necessary paperwork has not yet been completed.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs 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 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



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