



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 6719
Date: 01/08/2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Research into alternative badger control methods

Thank you for your request for information about research into alternative methods of badger control which we received on 04/07/2014. 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).

You asked for the following information:

- 1. The terms of reference [for research into gassing] and/or The design of the study (ie, what the research is testing, what form it will take and what data will be gathered)**

Further research is now planned into the use of carbon monoxide as a potential method of humane culling. There will be some preliminary tests to investigate the dynamics of carbon monoxide dispersal in a sett environment to determine whether any available delivery mechanisms have the potential to achieve humane and effective outcomes in real sett situations. These preliminary tests will not involve the use of inhabited setts or tests on live animals. Whether or not we proceed with further work involving live badgers is dependent on the outcome of these preliminary tests.

- 2. The length of the research (both of the research itself and the length of time before it will report results)**

This is expected to be a long-running programme of research and therefore the end-date



will depend on when the research is completed successfully or ended if it appears the research will not be successful.

The outcome of the research will be published when the full programme of work is completed.

3. The estimated cost of the research.

The current approved budget for research on alternative methods of badger control is £61,397 since August 2013. Financial control of the research project follows Defra's general terms and conditions for research projects.

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

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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