

From: [REDACTED] (Defra)

Sent: 24 June 2014 12:03

To: [REDACTED] (AHVLA); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (NE); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (AHVLA); [REDACTED] (NE)

Cc: [REDACTED] (Defra); [REDACTED] (AHVLA); [REDACTED] (AHVLA)

Subject: River Otter beavers

Hello All

[REDACTED] and I caught up with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] yesterday. Following that this is a quick update on progress against the SLA Annex, [in blue](#):

Phase 1 (Preparation):

- a) Identification of landowners and other relevant parties to secure access permission. [REDACTED] has identified most landowners, including maps of holdings, and phone numbers – just one or two gaps which AHVLA is following up. He was going to be contacting [REDACTED] later on Monday, about its info about landowners, and hopes to make contact with landowners this week.
- b) Identification of suitable (i.e. secure quarantine enclosure) premises for direct transfer of captured individuals.
- c) Identification of suitable premises for long-term rehoming [REDACTED]. b) and c) closely linked. Need vet facilities for laparoscopy and probably SAPO premises for holding. [REDACTED] is trying to talk to BIAZA about any zoos which might home the beavers long term but only 5 UK zoos hold European beaver and 3 hold American beaver. AHVLA Weybridge lab currently most promising for screening. [REDACTED] has talked to RZSS vets involved in EM screening in Scotland. We discussed the possibility of bringing a zoo vet experienced with beavers or similar mammals to eg Weybridge for the procedure.
- d) Application and issue of all relevant licences from Natural England. Application form almost complete – just needs to stipulate premises. Likely to name Weybridge and apply to change later if required.

Phase 2 (Pre-trap survey): [Expect to get onto ground week after next.](#)

- e) Habitat survey in order to identify sites of beaver activity and the optimum locations to undertake trapping. [REDACTED]
- f) Establishment of [REDACTED] most likely capture sites.
- g) Period of [REDACTED].
- h) Procurement of beaver traps. [REDACTED].

Phase 3 (Trapping):

- i) Deployment of traps [REDACTED]
- j) A period of [REDACTED].
- k) A period of active trapping.
- l) Transfer of captured animals direct to approved premises.

Next steps

We will discuss progress with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] again next week, by which time they should have contacted local landowners and have a better feel for views about re-capturing the beavers. Following that we expect to put a note to the SoS in next couple of weeks to indicate progress and likely timings (including a possible delay until [REDACTED] if kits are present?). The next Monthly Biosecurity Meeting is on 10 June.

Costs

- [REDACTED] is continuing to review AHVLA's draft SLA Annex for this work (attached). Overall we just have minor comments but note that **the cost is £42,795**, not £36k as we reported in the May submission. Those teams contributing will need to agree the mechanism for making payments – either collectively under this SLA Annex with an in-Defra journal transfer between teams or individually to AHVLA. Please let [REDACTED] have any comments on the SLA **by 1030 on Thursday 26 July**.