

**NOTE: because of the number of invitations received, a large number of them will have to be declined. Please therefore offer clear and concise advice as to why this event is the best use of the Minister's time.**

<b>Invitation Reference Number (from CONTACT system)</b>	350586 [June 2014]
<b>Name of lead policy official</b>	XXXX
<b>Date and Title of event / meeting</b>	meeting to discuss Beavers and testing in river Otter

**OVERALL RECOMMENDATION**

**Should the Minister attend? Yes/No/Good idea but not essential** Yes

**If Secretary of State is invited should a junior Minister attend instead?**

**Purpose of the event?** To convey the rationale for the re-capture of the River Otter beavers, reassure that the animals will not be culled, and to provide transparency about the process.

**What will the Minister gain from the event? How will it contribute to Defra's priorities?**

Buy in to our actions. If successful it will make the task of recapture easier and protect our policy regarding illegal releases of nonnative species as well as maintain the country's EM free status.

**Is it a speaking engagement?** No

**Other participants / the audience?** N/A

**What similar events has the Minister attended / be likely to attend in future?** None

**Risks or controversy associated with the event?** The Wildlife Trusts understand the need to tackle the threats posed by these otters, but they would like them either left in the river whilst tests are undertaken or returned after those tests have been carried out (and the animals found clean). They may not accept our rationale for not re-releasing the animals into the wild at this time.

**Press Office and External Comms advice?**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM MAY BE SENT BACK TO YOU, IF YOU DO NOT ADDRESS ALL THE POINTS  
RAISED.**