



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 6427
Date: 04 April 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Gassing Badgers

Thank you for your request for information about gassing badgers, which we received on 18 March. 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.

Can you confirm whether the 1982 Porton Down Badger Gas Experiments have been used in any recent desk-based assessments on the humaneness of Badger Gassing?

The results from the 1982 experiment form part of the evidence base on the humaneness of different methods of culling badgers. Defra is considering gassing as a possible option for culling but it will not be available in the short term. It is referred to in the Government's bTB strategy which was published on 3 April. The details of the strategy can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-eradicate-bovine-tb-in-england-unveiled>

If so, has any request or reference been made by Defra of the video footage made as a permanent record of the Badger Gassing?

Despite searches for the film, there are no remaining copies of the video footage of the experiments carried out in 1982. Therefore the video footage was not part of the desk

based assessment study. We have confirmed that the film is not held by the Defence Science and Technology Laboratories who are the current occupiers of the Porton Down site.

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 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

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) 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