



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

[REDACTED]

Our ref: RFI 6304
Date: 14 March 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Modelling the impact of Badger Vaccination

Thank you for your request for information about badger vaccination modelling, which we received on 14 February. 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 question is below:

In a letter dated 31 January (Ref MC333847/RW) to Jeremy Hunt, MP the Secretary of State commented on the relative merits of badger culling and vaccination. He stated 'modelling work suggests an extensive programme of vaccination is likely to take longer and have a lower impact on the level of TB in cattle'

Please release all available information on the specification, methodology, findings and interpretation of this modelling work.

The information that you have requested is available from the following websites:

- a. The modelling work comparing vaccination and culling can be found here:

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/food-farm/animals/diseases/tb/documents/8control-strat-report.pdf>

This was subsequently published in the peer reviewed journal PLOS One here:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0039250>

- b. Further modelling work looking at different interpretation of vaccine efficacy can be found in the modelling Annex of project SE3254 here:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&Completed=0&ProjectID=16715>

- c. The same modelling approach was recently used in the context of badger control in Northern Ireland here:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/fera-tvr-modelling-report.pdf>

These reports contain extensive descriptions of the assumptions and techniques used in the models.

As the information you have requested is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy in response to your request.

The PRIAS team can provide additional guidance on using regulation 6. The ICO has also provided useful guidance here: <http://www.ico.gov.uk/foikb/FOIPolicyInter-realtionbetweens21s39FOIAandtheEIRs.htm>

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that 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