

# Opportunity to comment June 2018: Summary of responses



As part of the badger control licence application process, members of the public are invited to provide information regarding issues that may be relevant to the determination of a licence application.

## Opportunity to comment period

The opportunity to comment (OTC) in Cumbria, covered the Low Risk Area where badger control licences had been applied for or expressions of interest had been received. Public notices were placed in the local press and advertised on the GOV.UK website. A total of 9 responses were received for the OTC from 5<sup>th</sup> June to 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The table below shows a summary of the responses received.

County	Total
Cumbria	9

## General themes

A number of general themes were raised by some respondents. These were public health and safety, tourism and business and ecological concerns. Specifically:

- Public Health & Safety - 2 responses. Concerns about safety whilst walking in the countryside, on public footpaths and wildlife watching during periods of licensed shooting.
- Tourism & Business - 3 responses. Concerns suggesting that a badger control licence could have negative impacts on visitor numbers and local services, such as wildlife research and rescue centres.
- Ecological Impacts - 1 response. Concerns relating to the impact on other wildlife species.

Applicants were notified of the responses related to their area. Natural England assessed the relevant measures that applicants put in place to mitigate for the issues raised, prior to the decision of issuing a licence. To see the summary of responses for previous OTCs please visit the GOV.UK website.