

# Opportunity to Comment 2019: Summary of Responses



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

## Opportunity to Comment Period

The opportunity to comment (OTC) ran from 21st March 2019 to 3rd April 2019, covering the county of Dorset. Notices were placed in the local press and advertised on the GOV.UK website. A total of 3 responses were received for this period.

## General Themes

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

- 1 response raised concerns regarding public safety, particularly when they may be walking/working in the countryside, at night, on occasions when night-time shooting may be taking place.
- 1 response raised concerns about the potential impact on tourism and businesses in the area. They believe that a licence to control badgers could have negative impacts on visitor numbers and research opportunities.
- 1 response raised concerns surrounding the ecological impacts of badger control, such as increased impacts on habitats and other local wildlife.

## Material Issues

The relevant Company will be notified of the responses, which relate to their area. Any potential public safety, business and environmental impacts will be considered in the licence assessment process by Natural England.