



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

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Our Ref: ATIC1515

[REDACTED]

{By Email}

31 December 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about bovine TB in Cheshire which we received clarity for on 22 November 2018. Your request has been handled under the both the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) and the Environmental Regulation Information 2004(EIR).

The information you requested and our response is detailed below:

- *“The number of badgers culled in Cheshire in the years 2017 and 2018 so far*

The information that you have requested for **2017** is available via the following link:

[Bovine TB: authorisation for badger control in 2017 - GOV.UK](#)

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 of the information with this response to your request.

The information that you have requested for 2018 is being withheld at present because it falls under the exception in regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs.

Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs relates to material that is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data. In respect of this information Defra teams are still in the process of finalising the work. It is APHA/Defra's intention to publish the information as soon as possible.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure. APHA recognises that there is a public interest in understanding the work of Government and the accountability and transparency around the badger culling.

However, releasing information before all of the data has been collated and verified and reports have been fully reviewed and finalised would likely mislead the public, if they

have to be revised as part of the process. This includes establishing whether any further work is necessary before drawing the project to a close.

This would not be in the public interest. Moreover, as mentioned above, APHA/Defra will be publishing the information in due course and so there would not be any further public interest to be served by early disclosure of the information which will be available to all interested parties in due course.

Therefore, we have concluded that in all the circumstances of the case, the information should be withheld.

- *The number of badgers culled which were found to have Bovine TB in the years 2017 and 2018 so far*

APHA can confirm that they did not conduct any tests to detect M.bovis during 2017 and it is too soon for results from the limited work that has been done in 2018. For your information not ALL culled badgers are tested.

- *The number of cases of Bovine TB in cattle in Cheshire in the years 2017 and 2018 so far”*

2017

TB Skin Test

1237 animals 211 CPH (Premises)

Gamma Test

940 animals 82 CPH (Premises)

2018 (01-01-2018 to 11-12-2018)

TB Skin Test

795 animals 198 CPH (Premises)

Gamma Test

1393 animals 107 CPH (Premises)

Information disclosed in response to this FOI/EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI/EIR and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

I attach an Annex which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM

Email: enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

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Complaints

If you are unhappy with the result of your request for information you may request an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this letter.

If you wish to request an internal review, please contact: The Access to Information Team at enquiries@apha.gsi.gov.uk or at the postal address at the top of this letter, who will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have 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 APHA's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF