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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: FOI2023/01607
1 February 2023

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: FOI and EIR requests pertaining to badgers

Thank you for your request for information of 25 January 2023 about information requests pertaining to badgers. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

A copy of all responses under FOI and EIR to any questions pertaining to badgers from 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2022.

We can confirm that in line with its retention schedule Defra only holds the details of information requests that were responded to under the FOIA and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs) going back to 2019.

Therefore, we can confirm that we hold no information in relation to your request from 2012 to 2018, inclusive.

Defra receives approximately 900 information requests a year. For the purposes of the FOIA Defra have conducted reasonable searches of its case management system to identify cases that relate to badgers, as specified in your request. In doing so, we have used the search term 'badgers' in the case title, and each response has been gathered together and prepared for release. Please see the results in the attached Zip file.

We have decided that some information in the attachments should be withheld under sections 40(2) and 40(3A) of the FOIA as the information constitutes personal data relating to persons other than you. These sections exempt personal information from disclosure if that information relates to someone other than the applicant, and if disclosure of that information would breach any of the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

We consider that disclosure of this information is likely to breach the first data protection principle, which provides that personal data must be processed lawfully, fairly, and in a transparent manner. Disclosure would not constitute 'fair' processing of the personal data because s/he would not reasonably have expected her/his name to be made public.



Information disclosed in response to this FOIA request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOIA and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.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.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B 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

[Redacted]

Information Rights Team
InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk

Annex A

Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can be also used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

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Annex B

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 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to ^[Redacted] Head of Information Rights via email at InformationRequests@defra.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's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>