

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>
Sent: 21 August 2019 16:22
To: Middlemiss, Christine
Cc: [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Jobshare, Bosworth-Daykin; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: URGENT TODAY: Note to Private Office on risk of culling/vaccination overlapping in Derbyshire - off sen - for CVO comment today pls

Thanks, Christine. Noted. Appreciate super-fast response! Will be sure to let you have a copy of the map.

[REDACTED]

From: Middlemiss, Christine
Sent: 21 August 2019 16:18
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>; Jobshare, Bosworth-Daykin <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: URGENT TODAY: Note to Private Office on risk of culling/vaccination overlapping in Derbyshire - off sen - for CVO comment today pls

Thanks [REDACTED]. I'm happy with the content but I would reorder it a little, highlighting earlier that this is not a new/novel situation and guidance already takes account of it, and bringing forward the bullet in the additional lines on pro-active badger culling being the best available option.

I'd like to see the map so I can say I have but that doesn't need to delay this advice going forward.

Christine

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Aug 2019, at 16:10, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk> wrote:

Christine

As promised, here's the draft email / note that [REDACTED] requested, for your views / input this afternoon please. I can walk over a hard copy of the map of the area in question if you would like to see it (I was going to print one for [REDACTED] anyway). Happy to discuss.

Issue

Sir Patrick McLoughlin, MP for Derbyshire Dales, has been in touch regarding the risk of vaccination and culling overlapping in Derbyshire this year. We understand he has been inundated with campaign emails about the possibility of the cull coming to Derbyshire. As you will be aware, Derbyshire is one of eleven new areas that have been assessed by NE as operationally ready to start operations this year (see advice from NE dated 20 August). You will also be aware that Derbyshire Wildlife Trust leads a flagship BEVS project, mainly in the Peak District, which includes input from the National Trust, NFU and local badger groups.

We have also received media interest in this issue over the past few days from BBC East Midlands, ITV Central, The Times and the Press Association. While our standard line is that we do not reveal cull boundaries for security reasons, you may wish to divulge some more information to the MP concerned on a confidential basis (as recommended below), given the particular handling issues in this case. Alternatively / in addition, you may wish the CVO to speak with him (in which case we will liaise with her office on a suitable date).

Suggested lines to take

- Natural England is the licensing authority for the culls and is currently in the process of reviewing applications for 2019, including for Derbyshire.
 - A decision will be communicated in due course and I / my office will write to MPs in new cull areas in advance of decisions being made public.
 - We do not comment on operational or licensing issues for security reasons (e.g. exact cull and vaccination boundaries are not disclosed).
-
- Vaccination and culling are both tools to control TB in cattle.
 - It is up to the farmer / land owner which control measure they use.
 - There are disease control benefits from using both tools in an area, or adjacent areas.
 - However, vaccination does not provide complete protection nor does it cure sick badgers. So it would not stop infected badgers continuing to spread the disease.
 - There is always a risk that vaccinated badgers may move to culled land, or that the farmer / landowner may change their preferred control measure.

[If needed]

- I understand that the vast majority of badger vaccination taking place in Derbyshire would not be in a cull area.

Background (including CVO views)

The vast majority of vaccination in Derbyshire is not in the proposed cull area (see hard copy map). There are a few very small pockets of vaccinated land in this proposed area. While some of it may be privately funded, it is likely the Derbyshire WT are leading / coordinating. There are also larger areas of BEVS land within (what we estimate is) a few miles of the proposed cull boundary in Derbyshire, with some small parcels on the cull boundary itself (most of which appears to be a small A road, so a hard boundary). However, the closer areas outside of the cull boundary are well within the distance that a badger could roam, so we cannot rule out the possibility that some vaccinated badgers would be culled. This is not a novel situation though, in that there are already pockets of vaccinated land in current cull areas, which is entirely in line with Defra's Guidance to NE.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have been increasingly active in opposing any new cull in Derbyshire and have used social media and other routes to generate a number of campaign pieces of correspondence to the Department, in addition to raising this directly with officials. This campaign is also the source of letters received by Sir Patrick McLoughlin. Their website states that over 3,000 letters have been sent: <https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/46753/action/1>

We have recommended that you send a Dear Colleague letter to the MP concerned (in common with all other MPs in new cull areas this year). Please see NE's advice on this year's licensing decisions (referred to above), which contains a list of such MPs and a draft letter.

Additional lines to take

- Natural England has, to date, authorised badger control operations for 32 areas of England.
 - As part of the licensing criteria, Natural England set minimum and maximum numbers of badgers to be removed. This is to ensure the badger control operations deliver disease reduction benefits without endangering the local badger population.
 - Natural England has a statutory role in supporting the Government's bTB eradication strategy through the issuing and administering of licences to cull and vaccinate badgers. This includes setting strict criteria under which licences will be issued for culling.
 - The final number of licences will depend on the applicant cull companies completing satisfactory applications.
 - Licensed badger control operations are carried out by trained marksmen and cage-trappers that have passed a Government-approved training course. Natural England monitors compliance with licence conditions.
 - We have to date seen safe, effective and humane culls and each year Natural England's Chief Scientist and the CVO publish advice on the outcome of the culling operations.
-
- Proactive badger control is currently the best available option - supported by tighter cattle controls including in those areas seeing a reduction in cattle-badger-cattle infection, improved biosecurity and vaccination, the licensing of further areas is necessary to realise disease control benefits.
 - Bovine TB costs taxpayers over £100million every year and England has the highest incidence of the disease in Europe – doing nothing is not an option.
 - In 2018, more than 32,000 cattle had to be slaughtered in England to control the disease - causing devastation and distress for farmers and rural communities.
 - We are currently considering the report of the TB Strategy review, conducted by a team led by Professor Sir Charles Godfray, the scope of which includes badger vaccination. A Government response to the review will be published later this year.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 August 2019 15:55
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>; Jobshare, Bosworth-Daykin <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@apha.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@defra.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: URGENT TODAY: Note to Private Office on risk of culling/vaccination overlapping in Derbyshire - off sen

[REDACTED],

You may also wish to add something like: 'Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have been increasingly active in opposing any new cull in Derbyshire and have used social media and other routes to generate a number of campaign pieces of correspondence to the Department, in addition to raising this directly with officials. This campaign is also the source of letters received by Sir Patrick McLoughlin'

Their website states over 3,000 letters have been sent:
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