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[Redacted]

By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: EIR2020/23611  
9 October 2020

Dear [Redacted]

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Report on the Badgers Found Dead Survey**

Thank you for your request for information of 12 September 2020 about the report on the Badgers Found Dead Survey. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our responses are set out below.

*Please disclose the report on the 'Badgers Found Dead' Survey in Edge Area counties in England (the counties on the edge of the cattle TB epidemic).*

The information you requested is being withheld as it falls under the exception in regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIRs, which relates to material that is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents and incomplete data.

In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

Defra recognises that there is a public interest in understanding the work of government. We also understand that information in relation to bovine TB surveillance in badgers is a subject of public interest and we accept that providing such information when it is ready for publication is important in demonstrating the transparency of public policy and public funded research.

However, the researchers intend to publish the survey results and further analysis in a peer-reviewed journal in due course. Peer-review is a mandatory step for a publication of this type and we consider that early release of the data could prejudice the peer-review process. The final reports will also be published on the Defra R&D website when completed.

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

*Please disclose when the report on the 'Badgers Found Dead' Survey was received by Defra. Please disclose the exact date that it was received, if the date is held. If the exact date is not held, please provide the month and year.*

Approximate dates that the documents were received by Defra are:

- University of Nottingham report – July 2018
- University of Surrey report – January 2019

*Please disclose the cost to Defra of the 'Badgers Found Dead' Survey and Report.*

Costs to Defra for the survey and report for each University are:

- University of Nottingham costs are £290,988.00
- University of Surrey report costs are £206,141.00

Information disclosed in response to this EIRs request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs 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](mailto: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 <sup>[Redacted]</sup>, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto: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's offices are currently closed so please visit their website on how to contact them during this period, here:

<https://ico.org.uk>