



Our Ref: ATIC2919

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

24 November 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about herd increases to badger cull areas which the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) received on 1 November 2022. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR's) 2004.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

“There have been boundary changes resulting in increases in 16 badger control areas from 2017 to 2021 (excluding areas 32, 54) comprising a total of 544 km2.

Contrary to phasing out badger culling from 2021 onwards, this is effectively introducing the equivalent of one or two cull areas by stealth.

A further 10 boundary changes have been introduced in 2022, total increase in area km2 as yet unknown.

Year on year additional extended area boundaries, particularly as seen in area 44 could make a significant difference to the btb status of that area. No doubt addition boundary increases will continue in forthcoming years up to and including 2025.

In order to update my analyses could you please provide the following information.

1. The number of herds introduced into the following areas when boundary changes were made. Areas 8 (2017), 13 (2018), 15 (2018), 19 (2018), 20 (2018), 24 (2019), 34 (2020), 37 (2020), 40 (2020), 35 (2021), 44 (2021), 47 (2021), 50 (2021), 51 (2021), 52 (2021), 53 (2021), 46 (2022), 50 (2022), 51 (2022), 53 (2022), 55 (2022), 56 (2022), 57 (2022), 58 (2022), 60 (2022), 61 (2022).

2. Please provide the disease status of the herds (OTF, OTF-W, OTF-S) that were introduced in the years boundary changes were made in the areas mentioned in request above. I realise that the recently published supplement to the monitoring report contains some of this information but not the information to date. For completeness I would like the requested information made available from 2017-date”.

The information you have requested for 1 and 2 can be found below:

APHA are unable to provide this data for areas extended in the year 2022 as the area data which will be provided by Natural England (boundary area data owners) is not held.

Area Number - Name	Year of Area extension	For Herds added to area in year of boundary extension			
		Total Number added	Number added with OTF-W status	Number added with OTF-S status	Number added with OTF status
Area 08-Dorset	2017	3	0	0	3
Area 13-Devon	2018	36	1	0	35
Area 15-Devon	2018	1	0	0	1
Area 19-Wiltshire	2018	3	2	0	1
Area 20-Wiltshire	2018	1	0	0	1
Area 24-Devon	2019	10	4	0	6
Area 34-Cheshire	2020	74	3	1	70
Area 37-Devon	2020	2	1	0	1
Area 40-Herefordshire	2020	0	0	0	0
Area 35-Cornwall	2021	0	0	0	0
Area 44-Avon	2021	127	5	4	118
Area 47-Herefordshire	2021	44	3	4	37
Area 50-Shropshire	2021	12	2	1	9
Area 51-Somerset	2021	18	1	0	17
Area 52-Warwickshire	2021	25	2	2	21
Area 53-Wiltshire	2021	1	0	0	1
Total		357	24	12	321

The numbers have been calculated by comparing two herd list datasets:

1. Herds in Existence list for original licenced area boundary at the start of the intervention period in the year when the extension was introduced.
2. Herds in Existence list for extended licenced area boundary at the start of the intervention period in the year when the extension was introduced.

The two datasets were compared and herds that appeared in both sets were removed (original area herds) leaving just the herds in the extension part of the licenced area which have been counted.

The number of herds with TB breakdown status (OTF, OTFW or OTFS) is given on the date of the start of the intervention period in the year when the extension was introduced. For information:

- OTF status means Officially Tuberculosis Free
- OTF-W status means OTF status has been withdrawn
- OTF-S status means OTF status has been suspended

A definition and explanation of 'Herds in existence' is given in the following publication (please click on the link below).

[Bovine TB: incidence of TB in cattle in licensed badger control areas in 2013 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

This annual monitoring report will be next published with updated data in Autumn 2023. It is possible there may be some differences in numbers reported at that time, compared to what is reported here due to additional data cleaning and assurance.

Information disclosed in response to this EIR request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the 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.

An Annex is attached 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.gov.uk

Annex

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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 APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

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

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.