



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: EIR2025/23952  
03 December 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cattle numbers in badger control areas**

Thank you for your request for information of 7th November about Cattle numbers in badger control areas. APHA 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 response are set out below.

“Regarding my 8-part information request, I would prefer the number of cattle on 1 July of the year to be disclosed, but if you do not hold that information then I would be grateful if you could disclose the number of cattle as close to 1 July as possible.

1. In relation to Badger Control Area 32-Cumbria, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021,2022, 2023.”

<b>Area number- Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 32-Cumbria	2017	17,682
Area 32-Cumbria	2018	17,749
Area 32-Cumbria	2019	17,502
Area 32-Cumbria	2020	17,100
Area 32-Cumbria	2021	17,427
Area 32-Cumbria	2022	17,506
Area 32-Cumbria	2023	17,685

“2. In relation to Badger Control Area 39-Dorset, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2019, 2024.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 39-Dorset	2018	10,210
Area 39-Dorset	2019	10,726
Area 39-Dorset	2020	10,103
Area 39-Dorset	2021	10,673
Area 39-Dorset	2022	11,003
Area 39-Dorset	2023	10,722

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July</b>
Area 39-Dorset	2019	10,748
Area 39-Dorset	2024	8,926

“3. In relation to Badger Control Area 53-Wiltshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2020, 2024.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 53-Wiltshire	2019	7,700
Area 53-Wiltshire	2020	7,386
Area 53-Wiltshire	2021	7,465
Area 53-Wiltshire	2022	6,182
Area 53-Wiltshire	2023	6,062

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July</b>
Area 53-Wiltshire	2020	7,199
Area 53-Wiltshire	2024	5,862

“4. In relation to Badger Control Area 54-Lincolnshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2019, 2020.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2019	1,645
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2020	1,610

“5. In relation to Badger Control Area 56-Hampshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2021, 2024.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 56-Hampshire	2020	6,248
Area 56-Hampshire	2021	6,105
Area 56-Hampshire	2022	6,398
Area 56-Hampshire	2023	6,169

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July</b>
Area 56-Hampshire	2021	5,562
Area 56-Hampshire	2024	4,634

“6. In relation to Badger Control Area 57-Berkshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2021, 2024.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 57-Berkshire	2020	3,672
Area 57-Berkshire	2021	3,570
Area 57-Berkshire	2022	3,478
Area 57-Berkshire	2023	3,689

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July</b>
Area 57-Berkshire	2021	3,552
Area 57-Berkshire	2024	3,282

“7. In relation to Badger Control Area 67-Hampshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2022, 2024.”

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July</b>
Area 67-Hampshire	2021	4,231
Area 67-Hampshire	2022	4,232
Area 67-Hampshire	2023	4,136

<b>Area number-Name</b>	<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July</b>
Area 67-Hampshire	2022	4,232
Area 67-Hampshire	2024	3,804

“8. In relation to Badger Control Area 69-Oxfordshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in each of these years: 2021, 2022, 2023 and the total number of cattle in the cohort population in each of these years: 2022, 2024.”

Area number-Name	Calendar Year	Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July
Area 69-Oxfordshire	2021	6,952
Area 69-Oxfordshire	2022	6,595
Area 69-Oxfordshire	2023	6,072

Area number-Name	Calendar Year	Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July
Area 69-Oxfordshire	2022	5,223
Area 69-Oxfordshire	2024	4,508

The request has been addressed using the same approach and rationale as previously used for EIR2024/13681 and EIR2025/21782.

The cohort and herds in existence (HIE) populations used here are the same as those used in the datasets available as part of the following publication:

[Bovine TB in cattle: badger control areas monitoring data up to 2024 - GOV.UK.](#)

The cohort population comprises active cattle herds located within the boundary on the start date of the cull in a given area, according to herd map references stored on the APHA Sam database. The number of herds in the cohort may decrease over time if herds are no longer active. The number of herds in the cohort is not impacted by any badger control area boundary changes. A full definition of the cohort population is available in the following publication:

[Bovine TB in cattle: badger control areas monitoring data up to 2024 - GOV.UK.](#)

The herds in existence population each year is defined on the anniversary of the start date of the cull in that area, which falls in the autumn of a given calendar year. It includes active cohort herds plus other herds recorded as active on that date, based on contemporary herd location map reference data, and retrospectively takes account of any badger control area boundary changes (i.e., HIE data for all previous years uses the most up to date boundary information). A full definition of HIE is available in the following publication: [Bovine TB in cattle: badger control areas monitoring data up to 2024 - GOV.UK.](#)

“The total number of cattle” in the cohort or herds in existence population for each requested year was calculated using the Cattle Tracing System (CTS), used for recording cattle movements. The total population of animals for the holding was used; for a small number of holdings with multiple herds, this may include animals from herds located outside of the badger control area boundary. Holding populations have been aggregated on an area basis.

As requested, the total number of cattle in the cohort or herds in existence populations has been given for 1 July of each requested year.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that the herds in existence population is defined in the autumn of each calendar year. Therefore, for the purpose of this data request, the number of cattle on 1 July for herds in existence is based on the herds in existence population defined in the autumn of the same calendar year (e.g., number of cattle in the herds in existence population for Area 32 on 1 July 2023 is based on the herds in existence population defined in autumn 2023).

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](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.

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**  
[enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Copyright**

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### **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 regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Team at the address at the top of this letter or email [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk) and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, 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

Please click [here](#) for further contact details.