



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Our ref: EIR2025/21782  
3 November 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Cattle numbers in 3 badger control areas**

Thank you for your request for information of 15th October about Cattle numbers in 3 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.

“Re: Information request about cattle numbers in three badger control areas

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

Area number-Name	Calendar Year	Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July
Area 32-Cumbria	2018	16,640
Area 32-Cumbria	2019	16,388
Area 32-Cumbria	2020	15,768
Area 32-Cumbria	2021	15,825

The total number of cattle has been given for 1 July of each requested year. The cohort population comprises active cattle herds located within the boundary on the start date of the cull in Area 32, 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 The number of herds in the cohort may decrease over time if herds are no longer active and are not impacted by any badger control area boundary changes.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.](#)

“2. In relation to Badger Control Area 54-Lincolnshire, please disclose the total number of cattle in the cohort herd population in each of these years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.”

Area number-Name	Calendar Year	Total number of cattle in the cohort herd population on 1 July
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2020	759
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2021	788
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2022	867
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2023	880
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2024	873

The approach used for data preparation was the same as for Q1. The total number of cattle has been given for 1 July of each requested year.

Data for 2025 cannot be provided. This is because CTS data relating to 1 July 2025 are still subject to change as data quality processes are completed within the system. Any data provided now is likely to be subject to a substantial amount of avoidable error. The data may be provided if requested again after January 2026.

As the information you have requested is due to be published in the future it is exempt from release citing Regulation 12(4)(d) of Environmental Information Regulations. Section 12(4). Further details regarding this exemption can be found below.

“3. 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: 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.”

Area number-Name	Calendar Year	Total number of cattle in the herds in existence population on 1 July
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2021	1,621
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2022	1,626
Area 54-Lincolnshire	2023	1,418

The total number of cattle has been given for 1 July of each requested year. Data for 2024 and 2025 cannot be provided.

Data on the number of cattle for Area 54 HIE in 2024 may be available if requested after July 2026 and data on the number of cattle for Area 54 HIE in 2025 may be available if requested after July 2027.

As the information you have requested is due to be published in the future it is exempt from release citing Regulation 12(4)(d) of Environmental Information Regulations. Section 12(4). Further details regarding this exemption can be found below.

“4. In relation to Badger Control Area 73-Cumbria, please disclose the total number of cattle in the cohort herd population in each of these years: 2024, 2025.”

This information is not currently available.

The cohort population for Area 73 has not yet been mapped because it has not yet been published as part of the annual Badger Control Areas monitoring data.

As the information you have requested is due to be published in the future it is exempt from release citing Regulation 12(4)(d) of Environmental Information Regulations. Section 12(4). Further details regarding this exemption can be found below.

“5. In relation to Badger Control Area 73-Cumbria, please disclose the total number of cattle in the herds in existence population in 2025.”

This information is not currently available.

The HIE population for Area 73 in autumn 2025 has not yet been mapped because data for this population has not yet been published as part of the annual Badger Control Areas monitoring data. The data may be available if requested after July 2027.

As the information you have requested is due to be published in the future it is exempt from release citing Regulation 12(4)(d) of Environmental Information Regulations. Section 12(4). Further details regarding this exemption can be found below.

“6. In relation to Badger Control Area 73-Cumbria, please disclose the total number of cattle on holdings that had their point locations within the boundary of the badger control area in 2024.”

The data cannot be provided for the reasons outlined under Q4.

“Regarding my 6-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.”

The total number of cattle has been given for 1 July of each requested year.

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.](#)

**Regulation 12(4)(d) of Environmental Information Regulations. Section 12(4).**

The information relating to future publications you have 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.

The information you have requested is currently in the course of completion and will be published in due course. In applying this exception, we have had to balance the public interest in withholding the information against the public interest in disclosure.

APHA 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 publicly funded research.

Releasing information before the results are complete, fully reviewed and finalised would, however, risk misleading the public and this would not be in the public interest.

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.