

XXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXXXX,
XXXXXXXX,
XXXXXX.
XXXXXXXXXX

20 Dec 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

Reference 1 states the following

[START OF EXTRACT]

35.A brief overview of how cull rates will be monitored is as follows.

36.The cull companies will be obliged to provide sufficient data from the field regarding levels of culling effort applied (e.g. contractors deployed, hours spent shooting, number of traps set) and the number of badgers removed as well as the location where such effort was deployed.

37.It is anticipated that a reliable estimate will not be available until towards the end of the 6-week cull. A similar method was used after the RBCT by Smith and Cheeseman in order to determine what proportion of the population was removed in the first cull.

[END OF EXTRACT]

Please send to me the following data for each square referred to in Tables 6.1 and 6.4 in Reference 3 for Somerset and Gloucestershire respectively so that I may gain some insight into the distribution of culling effort.

- 1.Hours spent shooting.
2. Number of traps set.
3. Number of badgers removed by each method.
4. Percentage of area to which access has been granted.

Such data is very basic. In addition to this, I understand that each square covers 10 square kilometres and mapping to the location in the zone is being withheld. Indeed such measures and these squares were used to provide information in Reference 3.

Non-compliance with this request will be viewed as an attempt to withhold legitimate information rather than any attempt to protect future cull operations.

Please treat this a Freedom of Information request. A reply by email will be preferred.

Yours faithfully,

xxxxxxx.

References

- 1) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/347536/badger-cull-setting-min-max-numbers-2014.pdf
- 2) <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-summary-of-badger-control-monitoring-during-2014>
- 3) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/300383/ahvla-efficacy-report.pdf



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Our Ref: ATIC0507

[REDACTED]
{By Email}

21 January 2015

Dear [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about the badger cull which we received on 22 December 2014. Your request has been handled under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The information you requested and our response is detailed below.

"Please send to me the following data for each square referred to in Tables 6.1 and 6.4 in Reference 3 for Somerset and Gloucestershire respectively so that I may gain some insight into the distribution of culling effort.

1. Hours spent shooting.
2. Number of traps set.
3. Number of badgers removed by each method.
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APHA (formally AHVLA) does not hold the requested analysis of the data because the squares referred to in tables 6.1 and 6.3 in the AHVLA efficacy report of the 2013 cull were 1km² sample squares used for gathering hair trap samples before the 2013 cull started.

The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) which relates to information not held when the applicant request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exemption, which usually means a public authority is required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner, who is the independent regulator for requests made under the Environmental Information Regulations, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the Information Commissioners view, APHA has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

APHA can advise that no hair trapping was carried out prior to the 2014 cull. Therefore neither the squares in tables 6.1 and 6.3 nor any other sample squares were used in any analysis.

The total amount of effort expended and the number of badgers culled by each method in each area were published in Annex A1 and A2; please follow the attached link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-summary-of-badger-control-monitoring-during-2014>

I attach an Annex 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.gsi.gov.uk