



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

2 November 2018

## **ATISN 12694 - Badger intervention measures to address TB in Wales**

Thank you for your request of 10 October regarding badger intervention measures in Wales. Please see the response below.

1. A reference to the last comprehensive report on the impact of cattle movement restrictions and badger vaccination in the IAA.

<https://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/170523-iaa-cattle-comparison-report.pdf>

2. A statement of when and where the next report on bovine TB in the IAA is due to be published.

We continue to monitor the disease situation in herds within the IAA though no decision has been taken yet as to the frequency of future reporting. It is likely that we will adopt a bi-annual IAA report with the first due to cover 2017/2018.

3. What Wales's plans are to extend on the badger vaccination program in the IAA which started in 2012 and ended in 2015.

No decision has been taken yet on extending the badger vaccination program in the IAA.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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4. Perhaps in order to eradicate TB from badger populations, badger populations will need to be vaccinated for 4 - 5 badger generations or around 20 years. If this is so, it is important to vaccinate badgers for as many years as possible in order to see benefit and this is likely to take more than 4 years. If there are no current plans to extend the badger vaccination program in the IAA, please explain the reasons why.

It is not the Welsh Government's aim to eradicate Bovine TB from the badger population. We are taking measures to break the disease transmission route between cattle and badgers.

No decision has been taken yet on extending the badger vaccination program in the IAA. However, when a worldwide shortage of BCG vaccine was encountered in 2015 (four years into the five year IAA Vaccination Project) the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) was commissioned to model simulations of the effect of different vaccination regimes on bovine TB in badgers and cattle, applying IAA-specific parameters. APHA's conclusion was that despite not being able to complete the final year, the benefit was realised after four years of badger vaccination.

5. If there have been any programs run in Wales to vaccinate badgers privately, the total licensed area which were and are being covered by all these programs in each year from 2010 to 2018 inclusive.

In 2014 there were 6 schemes covering an area of 7.79 km<sup>2</sup>

In 2015 there were 10 schemes covering an area of 20.13 km<sup>2</sup>

In 2018 there are 6 schemes covering an area of 16.88 km<sup>2</sup>.

6. Are there any plans to incorporate badger vaccination in Wales's policy to reduce TB through use of paid staff as in the IAA? If not, please explain why.

The option to use badger vaccination is available to us and as part of the badger trap and test operations delivered by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on chronic breakdown herds, badgers that test negative are vaccinated.

There are no current plans to undertake another large scale vaccination project similar to the IAA through the use of Welsh Government paid staff. The annual cost of the IAA operation is close to £ 1 million and this is not sustainable without cost sharing with industry.

7. The total area over which badgers have been culled in Wales in the year 2017 and over what area provision has been made to cull badgers in 2018 to date.

In 2017 badger trap and test operations covered approximately 685 hectares.

In 2018 badger trap and test operations covered approximately 973 hectares.

[1000 hectares = 10 km<sup>2</sup>]

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

or Email: [FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

**TB Team**  
**Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer**