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## Badgers/Bovine TB

### Environment Food and Rural Affairs

[Next answer »](#)[« Previous answer](#)[All Written Answers on 18 Mar 2004](#)**Mr Owen Paterson** (North Shropshire, Conservative)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on the issuing of licences to kill badgers under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992; and how many such licences she expects to issue in each of the next five years.

[Hansard source](#) (Citation: HC Deb, 18 March 2004, c433W)**Mr Ben Bradshaw** (Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Nature Conservation and Fisheries), Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Exeter, Labour)

The Department is responsible for issuing licences under two separate sub-sections of the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 which permit badgers to be killed. These are:

*10(2)(a) for the purpose of preventing the spread of disease, to kill or take badgers, or to interfere with a badger sett, within an area specified in the licence by any means so specified, and*

*10(2)(b) for the purpose of preventing serious damage to land, crops, poultry or any other form of property, to kill or take badgers, or to interfere with a badger sett, within an area specified in the licence by any means so specified.*

**i** Does this answer the above question?**Yes!** 0 people think so!**No!** 0 people think not!

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It is current policy not to issue any licences under sub-section 10(2)(a) to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis, except for animals held in captivity.

With respect to sub-section 10(2)(b), licence applications to prevent serious damage are judged on a case by case basis. Licences, irrespective of whether they are to kill, relocate or simply to interfere with a sett will only be issued where:

*there is evidence that serious damage is being or is likely to be caused;*

*there are no other practical methods of resolving the problem; and*

*the action proposed will be successful in preventing or reducing any damage that might be being caused.*

The Department does not place unnecessary restrictions on the control of badgers where they are causing genuine problems. However, a licence to kill badgers cannot be granted if there are non-lethal methods of preventing the damage available.

The Department cannot predict how many licences to kill badgers will be issued in each of the next five years. Figures for the last three years are available online at: [www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/statistics/statistics-badger.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/statistics/statistics-badger.htm)

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