

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]  
To: "helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk" <helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk>; "tbadmin@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK" <tbadmin@DEFRA.GSI.GOV.UK>  
Sent: 18/11/2014 17:12:57  
Subject: Procedures which contractors need to perform before receiving payment for culling badgers

Dear Sir / Madam,

Bovine TB is a zoonosis so public authorities who are involved in controlling TB have an obligation to respond to requests from the general public concerning matters which may have a bearing on the control of TB.

I would like to obtain a complete and detailed list of steps which a third party has to perform to receive payment when a badger is (a) free shot and (b) trapped and shot.

I understand that Cull Companies/Trade Associations hire the contractors who free shoot the badgers. I also understand from Ref 1 that the only kind of information associated with a trade association that would be caught by the Freedom of Information Act is that which is held by the public authority for the purposes of its official dealings with the trade association, and therefore held for the purposes of its functions as a public authority. As such I think if I was to contact the trade association for the information which I require, they would have no obligation to provide it. However I suspect that the public authority who assigned the job of free shooting badgers to the trade association would have an obligation to audit and record procedures followed by the trade association to ensure that such procedures followed standards in the public's interests to a required level. As such the public authority should have the information readily at hand to respond to my request if what I have requested is in the public's interest.

Please inform me if DEFRA are involved in the auditing of procedures carried out in the badger culling operations and , if so, does DEFRA hold information as part of this involvement which is of some relevance to the procedures which culling contractors need to follow in order to receive payment?

If DEFRA are not involved in auditing these aspects of the culling operations, please inform me of the accountable organisation who is and who has been given the necessary resource to respond to requests such as this. I believe the information which I am requesting is in the public's interest.

If DEFRA have been charged with this responsibility, please supply me with all information held by DEFRA which would be of some relevance to this particular aspect of the operations.

Please treat this as a Freedom of Information request.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77 or  
08459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
www.gov.uk/defra

Your ref:  
Our ref: RFI 6992  
Date: 19 November 2014

Dear [REDACTED]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Badger Cull Procedures**

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 20 October, about procedures during badger culling. We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You asked for 'a complete and detailed list of steps which a third party has to perform to receive payment when a badger is (a) free shot and (b) trapped and shot.'

I am writing to advise you that Defra and its agencies do not hold this information. The NFU and its contractor companies have complete responsibility for the payment of contractors during culling. There is no requirement on Defra or its agencies to hold details of payment mechanisms to contractors as this information does not contribute to the monitoring and data collection process.

The document outlining how the humanness and effectiveness of the culls was monitored in 2014 and the reports on monitoring effectiveness and humaneness in 2013 can be found at the links below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/monitoring-the-humaneness-and-effectiveness-of-badger-culling-in-2014>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pilot-badger-culls-in-somerset-and-gloucestershire-report-by-the-independent-expert-panel>

I attach an annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service that you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact the address below.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
**Defra FOIA and EIRs Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

