

17 June 2013

Ms Cristina Parker  
[request-161954-6b80f05b@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-161954-6b80f05b@whatdotheyknow.com)

Dear Ms Parker

**Environmental Information Regulations request to the Food and Environment Research Agency**

1. Thank you for your correspondence dated 18 May 2013 which requested information from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) under the Freedom of Information Act. You requested the following information:

Please provide the evidence you have on badger populations in the cull zones, based on hair dna, when the hairs were removed. Also, in view of the very hard winter and evidence of 'do it yourself' badger killing taking place and the subsequent starving of cubs, how can you have any confidence in your numbers?

2. We have divided your request into two parts and will respond to the first part (evidence of badger populations) under the Environmental Information Regulations and the second part (confidence in numbers) as a Deal With Officially request. The latter will be dealt with by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) since they are leading this Policy area. Defra will contact you separately with their response.
3. With regard to the first part of your request, I am pleased to confirm that Fera has decided to provide you with a summary of the data which we hold and this contained in the attached document - 'Estimates of badger population sizes in the West Gloucestershire and West Somerset pilot areas'. This report was written by Fera and contains the evidence on badger populations in the cull zones which was provided to Natural England and Defra to inform their decision making.

4. I believe that I have now responded fully to your request for information from the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera) under the Environmental Information Regulations. However, if you are unhappy with the way that Fera has handled your request you may ask for an internal review, please contact me and I will arrange one on your behalf. Please note that a review should be requested within 40 working days of the alleged failure to comply. If you remain unsatisfied because of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner must be contacted in writing within two months of you receiving the results of the internal review. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at the following address: FOI/EIR Complaints Resolution, Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
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Yours sincerely

*Fera Central Correspondence Unit*

*Enc: Estimates of badger population sizes in the West Gloucestershire and West Somerset pilot areas – A report to Natural England – 22 February 2013*

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