

16 October 2018



Ms Clarke

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Dear Ms Clarke

Access to information – Request No RFI 4377

Thank you for your request for the information detailed below which we received on 20 September 2018. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You requested the following information and our response has been provided below:

1- The total number of people taking training courses in 2018 for the badger cull, where there is incomplete information please provide the number of people to date who have taken the training course since 2013 to 2018.

Natural England does not hold information on the number of operators who have been trained to undertake licensed action. Therefore, EIR exception 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies.

Industry organisations are responsible for running the training courses, and Natural England only holds the number of trained operators who subsequently become authorised to undertake licensed action.

For further details regarding the training course please refer to Defra published guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/establishing-and-running-a-badger-culling-training-course-and-assessing-competence-minimum-course-requirements>

2- Number of people who failed or had to retake the course or additional training. Please add area in which person(s) are licensed for.

Natural England does not hold information on the number of people who attended the training, but failed to reach the required standard. Therefore, EIR exception 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies. See also response given to Question 1 above.

3- Breakdown of the numbers in all of the licenced areas to cull badgers in 2018, please distinguish multiple licences in the same zone.

This question is unclear, however it is assumed that you are requesting the number of persons authorised to undertake badger control activities in each of the licensed areas. This is provided below split into each of the licensed control method and those undertaking both methods.

Area	Number of authorised persons licensed to undertake cage trapping	Number of authorised persons licensed to undertake controlled shooting	No of authorised persons licensed to undertake both control methods
Area 1- Gloucestershire	66	47	37
Area 2- Somerset	63	35	33

Area 3- Dorset	87	52	33
Area 4- Cornwall	176	40	31
Area 5- Cornwall	100	41	32
Area 6- Devon	279	109	85
Area 7- Devon	152	45	18
Area 8- Dorset	118	85	36
Area 9- Gloucestershire	136	85	63
Area 10- Herefordshire	83	58	36
Area 11- Cheshire	104	74	39
Area 12- Devon	337	93	60
Area 13- Devon	190	67	41
Area 14- Devon	115	54	43
Area 15- Devon	116	39	20
Area 16- Dorset	294	235	146
Area 17- Somerset	105	43	28
Area 18- Somerset	82	36	21
Area 19- Wiltshire	149	146	72
Area 20- Wiltshire	146	100	70
Area 21- Wiltshire	94	72	46
Area 22- Cornwall	396	175	94
Area 23- Devon	177	90	33
Area 24- Devon	201	97	61
Area 25- Devon	158	66	44
Area 26 Devon	130	50	12
Area 27- Devon	61	33	15
Area 28- Devon	105	26	9
Area 29- Gloucestershire	102	70	45
Area 30- Somerset	100	104	42
Area 31- Staffordshire	328	183	88
Area 32- Cumbria	49	41	15

4- Please provide which month's and number of training days in 2018 for badger cull and numbers of attendees.

Natural England does not hold information on which months or the number of training days in 2018 or the number of attendees. Therefore, EIR exception 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies. See also response given to Question 1 above.

5- How many people who had passed the course and since been removed from the licence and reason for removal.

Natural England does not hold information on the number of people who have passed the approved training course. Therefore, EIR exception 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies. See also response given to Question 1 above.

6- Where any of the attendees buddies for shooters.

Natural England does not hold information on whether those attending training sessions subsequently became ‘buddies’. Therefore, EIR exception 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies. See also response given to Question 1 above.

7- What training are buddies given if any ie biosecurity.

‘Buddies’ are not required to attend the approved training course. It is the responsibility of each licensed authorised person to ensure that their ‘buddy’ is appropriately informed and aware of licence conditions and the Best Practice Guides.

8- Requirements for becoming a shooter buddie ie age training.

See response to question 7 above. There is no minimum or maximum age. It is the responsibility of the licensed authorised person to ensure that they have a suitable and responsible ‘buddy’.

In previous years Natural England have released full details of training dates including a breakdown of area under FOI.

In order to assess a licence application, Natural England no longer requires information from the applicant regarding each training session undertaken.

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Yours sincerely

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