



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Spartacus
request-207441-1df937fa@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 6520
Date: 5 January 2015

Dear Spartacus,

INTERNAL REVIEW: BADGER CULL PILOT COSTS

Thank you for your email of 14 June requesting an internal review of Defra's refusal to disclose the date when the full costs of the Badger Cull Pilots will be published (including a breakdown for NFU/Police/Defra/Natural England/AHVLA in each zone). Your internal review will be handled under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs).

Your case has been reviewed by the Information Standards Team within Defra in discussion with colleagues who handled your original request. When your request was received Defra was still collating the costs incurred from the pilot culls, and as explained in the previous response, final invoices were still being submitted and reviewed. The review has therefore found that the information requested was still in the course of completion and as such regulation 12(4)(d) was correctly applied, and that it was in the public interest to maintain the exception. However, the information has now been published online, and you have been provided with a copy in our response to you of 14 November.

Where it appears to the requestor that the public authority has not complied properly with the requirements of the EIRs, Regulation 11(4) requires a public authority, to review its original decision within a maximum period of 40 working days. Your original request for a review was received on 14 June, and the 40th working day was 8 August, and so the EIRs have been breached.

I should like to apologise for the length of time that it has taken us to review your case. This was due to other work pressures and staff absences in the review team. It is not our practice to take longer than absolutely necessary to review our decisions. Regrettably we have not reached those standards in this case. We therefore uphold this procedural aspect of your complaint in full.

I hope that this letter answers your complaint satisfactorily. However, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Please also see - <http://www.ico.gov.uk/complaints.aspx>

Yours sincerely,
Via email

Mike Kaye
Head of Information Standards

