



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.defra.gov.uk

Mr M Smith
request-175983-cf7bb015@whatdotheyknow.com

Our ref: RFI 5777
Date: 7th October 2013

Dear Mr Smith,

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Testing for TB in animal species other than Badgers

Thank you for your request for information about testing for TB in animal species other than badgers which we received on 9th September. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

There has been research conducted into testing various animal species that may become infected with or act as carriers of TB. I have attached links to two such research projects below which will help you with your enquiry:

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=8665>

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=9071>

The available evidence was reviewed by the Independent Scientific Review Group chaired by Professor John Krebs (now Lord Krebs). For ease of reference I have attached links to the executive summary of their 1997 report (please note that the archived Defra web site holds the executive summary only).

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/tb/publications/krebs.htm>

The Krebs Review concluded that despite there being “*compelling*” evidence that badgers were involved in transmitting infection to cattle, the development of a control policy was made difficult because the effectiveness of badger culling could not be quantified with the data available. It therefore recommended that a large-scale field trial - the Randomised



Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) - be set up to quantify the impact of culling badgers on incidence of TB in cattle, and to determine the effectiveness of strategies to reduce the risk of a TB cattle herd breakdown. A link to the final RBCT report is below:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20081107201922/http://defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/culling/index.htm>

As the information you have requested is already publicly available and easily accessible, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy in response to your request.

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 me.

Yours sincerely,

Defra TB Programme

Email: ccu.correspondence@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Annex

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 18 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Mike Kaye, Head of Information Standards, Area 4D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR (email: requestforinfo@defra.gsi.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our [website](#).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF