

22 January 2018



Ms E Lawrence

request-453797-4592e2b3@whatdotheyknow.com

BM 6283
London
WC1N 3XX

Dear Ms Lawrence

Access to information – Request No RFI 4131

Thank you for your request for the information detailed below which we received on 04 January 2018. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Your request has been broken down into the specific information requested and our response has been provided beneath each one:

1. When issuing licences for badger culling does Natural England check that the land and landowners who are applying for badger culling licences are cattle or dairy?

Natural England makes no checks on whether land, for which permission has been granted to undertake badger control, is used for cattle or dairy. Therefore, EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies.

2. If Natural England does not check that the land and landowners who are applying for badger culling licences are cattle or dairy, why not?

There is no criteria requiring land, on which badger control may take place, to be used by cattle or dairy. For further details of the policy and licence criteria, please see the below link to Defra's Guidance to Natural England <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13692-bovinetb-guidance-ne.pdf>.

3. Does Natural England know how many badger cull licences have been applied for by pheasant shooting estates?

Natural England does not hold any information regarding applications for badger control licences that were made by pheasant shooting estates. Therefore, EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies.

4. Please supply the numbers [of badger cull licences that have been applied for by pheasant shooting estates]. I am not asking for names just numbers.

The requested information is not held. Therefore, EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies.

5. In Gloucester 2 zone is the majority of land used for culling owned or used by cattle farmers or shooting estates?

The requested information is not held. Therefore, EIR Regulation 12(4)(a) – information not held, applies.

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If you are not content with the outcome of that complaint or the internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the internal review procedure provided by Natural England. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Telephone: 0303 123 1113, www.ico.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

BTB Team

Bovine TB Licensing Unit