



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 July 2018

Dear ,

ATISN 12418 – Use of badger cull licenses

Thank you for your request for information received on 20 June.

I can confirm that information relating to the number of badgers trapped, tested, vaccinated or culled in 2017 had not been released until the publication of the report on Friday 13 July 2018 relating to the delivery of the badger trap and test operations on chronic TB breakdown farms in Wales in 2017.

The article published in the Farmers Guardian was based on information published following a freedom of information request relating to the number of licences issued and badgers removed or killed under those licences. This published information can be found using the following link to the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/about/open-government/freedom-of-information/responses/2018/May18/atish12255/?lang=en>

That published response clearly stated that number of Bovine TB test positive badgers killed under licence as part of the TB Eradication Plan had not been reported on at that time. Welsh Government view that the Farmers Guardian article totally misinterpreted this information and has made objections to the publication.

Answers to the questions you asked are below:

1. How many farms did badger control operations take place at during 2017?

Licensed badger trap and test operations were undertaken on 3 farms. Previously published information relating to the number of licences granted as part of the TB Eradication Programme in 2017 can be found using the following link to the Welsh Government website:

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

TB Team
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQJ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact
Centre 0300 0604400

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/conservationbiodiversity/wildlifelicences/uk-protected-species/Badger-licences/?lang=en>

2. How many badgers were trapped under the badger control licences during 2017?

37 badgers were trapped and tested.

3. How many badgers were killed under the badger control licences during 2017?

Five badgers that tested positive to the trap side Dual Path Platform test were humanely euthanised.

Full details of the delivery of the badger trap and test operations on chronic TB breakdown farms in Wales in 2017 can be found in the published report using the following link to the Welsh Government website:

<https://gov.wales/docs/drah/publications/180712-delivery-of-badger-trap-and-test-operations-2017-report-en.pdf>

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

or Email: FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely