



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

5 February 2018

Dear ,

Complaint in respect of ATISN 11727 - Badger Licences

I refer to your request received on 16 January to undertake an internal review of the refusal of part of your request for information - reference ATISN 11727.

May I apologise if you feel you have not been treated fairly, but I emphasise that the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, does not intentionally withhold information without good reason, nor do we deliberately delay the release of information.

I have investigated your complaint and completed my review. Your request was made on the following two grounds:

1. The information requested at Point 4 has been withheld on 'Public Interest' grounds, specifically on the grounds that the specific information I requested in Q4 will be published at some point though no date has been decided or given.
2. I ask the Internal Review to examine the length of time taken to see if the FOI could have been answered more promptly, and also to look at improving response time in future.

With reference to your complaint regarding the withholding of information, I consider we were correct to do so.

As stated in Annex 1 of our letter dated 14 December 2017, I confirm that the Welsh Government is committed to publish reports on:

- the programme delivery of the badger trap and test operations on chronic TB breakdown farms and;
- the assessment of the impact of all the measures applied to the chronic breakdown herds on those herds and on neighbouring herds.

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

The report on the delivery of the badger trap and test operations will include all the information you requested in question 4 of your request dated 17 November 2017. However, we will not release information that would identify the location of the badger trap and test operations nor the identity of those involved.

We accept that the release of the information you have requested will be of interest to a certain proportion of the general public. However this is not the test that is applied in line with the Freedom of Information Act, and guidance from the Information Commissioner is clear in saying:

The public interest here means the public good, not what is of interest to the public, and not the private interests of the requester.

I concur that it is in the public interest to withhold this information at this time to allow for proper and internal consideration prior to its public release and that the public interest remains with releasing the information within the context of the full and completed report. I can confirm that the report will be published this year.

With reference to your complaint regarding the length of time taken to respond to your request. I have considered the handling of the request and I am satisfied that it was responded to promptly in the circumstances. Due to the technical nature of the request, there was only a very small number of the TB team with the knowledge to respond, and any perceived delay was solely down to the suitability and availability of staff to respond.

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you 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.

Yours sincerely

Jackie Price
Head of TB Policy
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Picton terrace
Carmarthen
SA31 3BT