

How to respond to the Bovine TB in Badgers Consultation

In order to ensure that the policy option put forward by government to control bovine TB in badgers becomes a reality, it must receive strong industry support.

It is important for the farming industry to demonstrate its widespread support for these proposals, as Defra will receive many negative responses. To counter this it will require as many of you as possible to submit your response to the consultation. This is the only option that we have and if we do not chose to support it, it is unlikely that alternative options will be offered. You can send a written response by post, email or fax.

There is no requirement to respond to each of the eight questions put forward in the consultation as general comments will be taken into account.

A straight forward response indicating your support of the policy approach proposed would be sufficient.

If you do not want your individual response or personal details to be publically available, you should state it on your response giving your reasons why (*for example - due to the highly sensitive nature of the content and for the protection of your personal safety from those who may be wishing to cause harm or harassment*). Please note however that Defra say regarding all consultations that "*You should also be aware that there may be circumstances in which Defra will be required to communicate information to third parties on request, in order to comply with its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations.*" Defra usually only publishes summaries of responses to consultations.

If you want to answer the questions set out in the document they are as follows:

1. Comments are invited on the options, costs and assumptions made in the Impact Assessment
2. Do you agree with the preferred option?
3. Do you agree that this approach, of issuing licences to farmers/landowners, is the most appropriate way to operate a badger control policy?
4. Do you agree with the proposed licensing criteria for culling and vaccination?
5. Do you agree that the proposed methods of culling are effective and humane?
6. Do you agree with the proposed use of vaccination, particularly its focus on mitigating the perturbation effects of culling?
7. Whether more should be done to encourage the use of vaccination?
8. Is there anything we have missed that may be considered essential to monitor?

Responses should be sent to:-

Write to - TBBC Mailbox
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Email - tbbc@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Fax - 0207 238 6431

Responses must be received before the consultation closes on 8 December 2010

Further information is available from www.nfuonline.com and www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult

The voice of British farming

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