



SAY 'NO' TO THE PLANS TO KILL BADGERS

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE WAG CONSULTATION

Elin Jones, Minister for Rural Affairs, is consulting on a new Badger Control Order 2010. Like the 2009 Order, which was ruled unlawful earlier this year, if passed this will allow the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) to kill badgers in north Pembrokeshire and adjacent parts of Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire - known as the IAA (Intensive Action Area). Their proposed action is, to enforce access to all land within the area, and to cull around 1400 badgers, just in the first year, by cage trapping and shooting, or free-shooting. The cull would take place annually in spring, summer and autumn for at least 5 years. WAG have ruled out the use of vaccination as part of the current TB Eradication Programme, although an injectable badger vaccine is available now and is an option in England. (Oral badger vaccine is also being trialled and cattle vaccination is on the horizon.) They have not addressed the issue that culling will make the future use of vaccination more difficult because it increases the prevalence of TB in the badger population. Nor have they considered the many other detrimental impacts of culling, such as the negative effects on communities, tourism and other industries, and the reputations of farming and Wales itself. See the PAC website www.pembrokeshireagainstthecull.org.uk for further information on why we believe culling badgers is not an effective solution to controlling bovine TB. You can also find the WAG consultation document and downloadable PAC guidelines and pro-forma response forms there.

It is absolutely critical that as many people as possible respond to this WAG consultation. Here's how to make sure your response will be counted...

- **Head your response clearly - *Response to Consultation on Badger Control in the Intensive Action Area* - so there can be no doubt that it is a response to this consultation.**
Put this in the email subject lines and at the top of the email itself, as the first line of a paper response etc.
- **Answer each of the 7 specific consultation questions asked. Set your answers out clearly against the relevant question number. Be direct about your opinion re the proposed statement / actions. State yes or no as appropriate – and then explain why.**
(Last time about 1600 emails and other correspondence sent to WAG opposing plans to kill badgers were not counted as consultation responses. If you don't address the questions your response might be classed as ordinary correspondence.) ***Point out any flaws and skews in the consultation in your response.***
- **Make your response individual, whenever possible.**
You can write your own response. ***You may want to use one of our blank pro-forma response forms*** and look at the answers others have given, on the reverse of this page, to help you identify relevant points and issues. ***Or use one of our pro-forma response forms with answers already filled in – but please add your own comments and views underneath in the available free space.***
- **Submit one response per person** – this will assert your right to have an independent view and be counted as an individual (rather than a block response per household or email address).
- **Put your name and address on – sign and date it.**
You can ask WAG not to publish your name, address and email. Our response forms have a box you can tick to request that your details are not published.
- **Keep a copy for yourself (& please send a copy to PAC- address below).**
- **Send it back – to reach WAG by 17 December latest - to TB Team, Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Rural Affairs, Welsh Assembly Government, Cathays Park, CF10 3NQ or by email to bovinetbconsultations@wales.gsi.gov.uk**