

James Paice MP,
Minister of State for Agriculture and Food,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London.
SA1A 0AA

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my serious concern that your department is considering killing badgers as part of a policy aimed at reducing Bovine TB in cattle.

I totally oppose the killing of badgers and find it difficult to understand how your department can state that this policy of 'badger control' is 'science led' when the Independent Scientific Group stated that 'badger culling cannot meaningfully contribute to the future control of cattle TB'.

The current tuberculin test applied to cattle produces many false positive and negative results. This unacceptable regime leaves infected cattle to re-infect other cattle and removes animals for slaughter that are not infected at all. There is scope for major improvements in testing until a cattle vaccine can be introduced.

The cost of trapping, killing and disposing of a badger is significantly greater than trapping, vaccinating and releasing the same animal. The advantage of vaccination is that we would end up with a badger population that was not a risk to cattle. It makes sound economic, political and common sense to vaccinate rather than exterminate.

Other species of wildlife including deer carry Bovine TB and the horrific conclusion of a culling approach would be that every potential non cattle carrier of the disease would be eliminated and our natural environment totally sanitised.

You have the responsibility to act on our behalf to safeguard our environment, please don't let us down.

Yours sincerely,

Address: