

Telephone 08459 33 55 77

Website www.defra.gov.uk

Mr [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our ref RFI3489
Date 9 September 2010

Dear Mr [REDACTED]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:

Thank you for your request for information, which we received on 13 August 2010, concerning the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's (GWCT) involvement in Defra commissioned research relating to the extent and humaneness of snaring in England and Wales. We are dealing with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

I provide the information you requested. The information supplied to you continues to be protected by the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including any non-commercial research you are doing and for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder. Most documents supplied by Defra will have been produced by government officials and will be Crown Copyright. You can find details on the arrangements for re-using Crown copyright on OPSI (Office of Public Sector Information) at: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/click-use/index.htm>

Information you receive which is not subject to Crown Copyright continues to be protected by the copyright of the person, or organisation, from which the information originated. You must ensure that you gain their permission before reproducing any third party (non Crown Copyright) information.

In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs, all information is assumed to be releasable to the public unless exempt. The information you requested may now be published on our website together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context.

You asked 5 questions, which I will answer in turn:

1) **What was the nature of the research requested of the GWCT for that research project?**

The project was awarded to GWCT and the Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) as joint contractors. The details of the research project can be found in the attached pdf document.

2) Were any instructions given to GWCT to comply with 11.6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act?

All contractors are expected and required to comply with all relevant laws, no special instruction to do so is needed. Section 11(6) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is a defence.

3) Was the experimental GWCT breakaway snare expected to form part of the research?

The experimental GWCT breakaway snare was not expected to form part of the research.

4) Were GWCT expected to operate under any licence and if so which one?



GWCT were expected to operate under Project and Personal Licences held under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. GWCT also obtained a licence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, for the capture and release of badgers.

5) If Schedule 6 animals died as a result of snaring were the police expected to be informed?

As stated above, contractors are expected to comply with the law. The Police would only have been needed to be informed if there was reason to believe that there had been unlawful activity. As unlawful activity was not expected, it was not expected that the Police would need to be informed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. I also attach an annexe giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

Yours, sincerely


Wildlife Management Policy Officer
Direct Line 0117 372 8003
Fax 0117 372 8508
Email 

Annexe A

Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Clive Porro, Head of Defra's Information Rights Team at, Area1B, Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AL, (email: informationrights@defra.gsi.gov.uk) who will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure can be found at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/complain/info.htm>

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Please note that generally the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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