

spatial distribution of disease. If an area shows significant improvements in the disease situation, the use of badger vaccination will be deployed as a non-lethal exit strategy.

Although there is no set timeframe for this, data from the Low-Risk Areas suggest at least two years of culling would be needed.

It is proposed there would be no limits on how many clusters can be licenced in any given year. For those areas that do not fall into the cluster, or where culling is not deemed necessary, further support will be provided in the form of on farm biosecurity and the vaccination of badgers.

Proposal 2 ±Licence and associated conditions for badger culling under a targeted badger intervention policy

The Secretary of State would act as the licencing authority for TBI, transferring the responsibility from Natural England to Defra. To reduce the administrative burden on farming groups, the ability to deliver culling and vaccination as a single organisational annual licence is being considered.

When applying for a licence, the licence holder will need to show their capacity to vaccinate badgers. This should be done immediately after the CVO has advised that culling should cease within the cluster.

Gaining views from both past and current cull companies, particularly in relation to the use of organisational licences and funding, will be instrumental in this proposal as these companies have an in-depth understanding of the process. As with the requirement to demonstrate capacity for badger vaccinations, this needs to be reflective of what those on the ground feel is achievable.

Cattle Measures

Defra has introduced two main proposals to encourage responsible cattle movements and purchasing, forming part of a comprehensive approach to align cattle and wildlife control measures.

Proposal 3 ±Supporting cattle purchases by publishing further bTB risk information on ibTB

ibTB is an online mapping tool aimed to help cattle farmers minimise the risks associated with purchasing cattle from high-risk areas.



