

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Paul

During Oral Assembly Questions on 9 May, I committed to write to you on a number of aspects of the TB Eradication Programme.

In terms of reporting on the TB Eradication Programme, as you are aware, I have committed to reporting on an annual basis. Although we are now nine months into our refreshed TB Eradication Programme, it is too early to draw any meaningful conclusions in respect of current trends in TB statistics, not least because TB statistics are published 2-3 months in arrears and so the latest statistics will only cover the period to February 2018. Further, the measures put in place in October, need time to bed in and we need to allow sufficient time for any impacts to work through to the statistics. We also know caution should be taken when observing short term trends in TB statistics due to their often volatile nature.

There are already a large number of data sources which set out TB statistics at a local, regional and national level published at various times of the year. For example, the TB Dashboard published on a quarterly basis, the National TB Statistics published monthly and the TB surveillance report for Wales all contain useful statistics on the disease picture in Wales. In reporting on progress, we need to be mindful of the timings of these publications to ensure consistency in approach.

In order to provide the most meaningful disease statistics and the fullest disease picture, I intend to make a statement on progress with the TB Eradication Programme in April. This will ensure we have a complete calendar year picture, will be consistent with the publication of the National disease statistics and will also coincide with the publication of the Quarter 4 TB Dashboard.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Regarding the number of infected badgers removed since the start of the Programme, it is the intention to publish the annual licence information on the Welsh Government's website; the details for 2017 will be published later in 2018. The detail will contain the total number of licences issued, the licencing period for each of the licences and the number of animals removed under the licences.

Regards
Lesley

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