



Samuel Kurtz MS
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16 August 2021

Dear Samuel,

I committed to write to you in response to a number of Written Questions you tabled on 23 June 2021 concerning bovine TB. Please find responses to your questions below.

WQ82774 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of false positives from pre and post movement TB tests issued for cattle by area between 2019-20 and 2020-21?

The specificity of the skin test at standard interpretation is considered to be 99.98%, which is equivalent to 1 false positive for every 5000 cattle tested. There is no way of knowing which cattle positive to the skin test at standard interpretation are truly infected and which may be false positives.

WQ82773 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of licences issued to move bovine animals which have not been subjected to a pre- or post-movement TB test in 2019-20 and 2020-21 by area, and whether subsequent bovine TB reactors or positive tests have been detected in these herds?

Cattle movement licences are not issued in these circumstances.

WQ82772 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of breaches to cattle movement licences in relation to positive pre and post movement TB tests between 2016 and 2021, by area and year?

Cattle movement licences are not issued in these circumstances.

WQ82771 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of pre and post movement TB tests issued for cattle by area between 2019-20 and 2020-21?

The organisation of Pre- or Post- Movement Tests is a private arrangement between an individual herd keeper and their private vet.

Publicly available data on these type of tests in Wales can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/latest-official-statistics-on-pre-movement-and-post-movement-testing-for-tuberculosis-tb-in-cattle-in-great-britain-quarterly>

Additional data for the number of pre-movement and post-movement tests carried out by TB Area and financial year are provided in Table 1 and Table 2 below:

Table 1: Number of pre-movement tests carried out by TB Area and financial year, 2019-20, 2020-21

Financial Year	High TB West	High TB East	Intermediate TB North	Intermediate TB Mid	Low TB
2019-20	42,972	43,867	13,881	25,588	4,830
2020-21	47,101	43,809	13,511	28,675	4,784

Source: Pre and Post movement testing data from SAM correct as at 29 June 2021

Table 2: Number of post-movement tests carried out by TB Area and financial year, 2019-20, 2020-21

Financial Year	High TB West	High TB East	Intermediate TB North	Intermediate TB Mid	Low TB
2019-20	56	11	229	55	10,042
2020-21	46	12	137	57	11,350

Source: Pre and Post movement testing data from SAM correct as at 29 June 2021

WQ82769 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of funding provided to bovine TB trap, test and cull procedures, by year, between 2016 and 2021?

The badger trap and test operations began in 2017, not 2016.

A breakdown of the number of badgers euthanised during trap and operations each year, as well as whether they tested positive or negative, can be found in the annual reports for each year, which are available on the Welsh Government website. These reports also include the associated costs.

<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb-badger-trapping-and-testing-chronic-tb-breakdown-farms-2019>

Operations for 2021 are ongoing and a report detailing the delivery of these operations will be published in 2022.

WQ82768 (e) Tabled and WQ82767 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of badgers culled during trap, test and cull procedures by year between 2016 and 2021, as well as whether they tested positive or negative?

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of bovine TB vaccinations administered in Wales between 2016 and 2021, by year?

In relation to badger vaccination, due to a world-wide shortage of BCG vaccine and the prioritisation for use in humans, no badger vaccination operations were undertaken in 2016 and 2017.

The number of badgers vaccinated as part of Welsh Government's Badger Vaccination Grant scheme are published through updates and bulletins to a wide range of stakeholder groups.

The 2020 results for the badger vaccination grant scheme allowed the vaccination of 206 badgers over a total area of 30.72km squared.

The number of badgers vaccinated as part of the trap and test operations on chronic TB breakdown farms can be found in the annual reports published on the Welsh Government website: [Bovine TB: badger trapping and testing on chronic TB breakdown farms | GOV.WALES](#)

Badger vaccination operations for 2021 are ongoing and figures will be published at the end of the vaccination year.

In relation to vaccination of cattle, there is currently no approved TB vaccine for use in cattle. However, the first phase of field trials began in June with the aim of completing two phases of field trials by 2024. Further information can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/bovine-tb-vaccine-field-trials-major-breakthrough-long-term-plan-eradicate-disease-lesley-griffiths>

WQ82766 (e) Tabled on 23/06/2021

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the bovine TB badger trap, test and cull licences issued between 2016 and 2021, by year?

The badger trap and test operations began in 2017, not 2016.

An annual report for licenses issued per vaccination year is published on the Welsh Government website at the end of each vaccination year.

These annual reports state the number of licenses and any supporting information for the Trap and Test operations.

These reports can be accessed here: <https://gov.wales/bovine-tb-badger-licence-reports>

Operations for 2021 are ongoing and the license report will be published at the end of 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
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Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd