



bTB Wildlife Intervention Consultation

UFU member response guide

Use these points to help shape your own response. Your submission should reflect **your farm, your experience and your own words**.

1. Do you agree that a wildlife intervention is necessary?

GUIDANCE: YES

Things you could consider:

- Farmers have been subject to cattle controls for decades, yet TB remains a major problem.
- Disease needs to be addressed in both cattle and wildlife.
- Continuing to deal with only one source of infection is unlikely to deliver eradication.
- Farmers need to see meaningful progress towards reducing TB.
- The ultimate objective should be healthy cattle and healthy wildlife.

The UFU's detailed response argues that wildlife intervention is a necessary part of a credible eradication strategy. **See the full UFU response for further detail.**

Make it personal: What has TB meant for your farm and why do you believe wildlife now needs to be addressed?

2. Would you support controlled shooting of free-roaming badgers?

GUIDANCE: YES

Things you could consider:

- Practicality and ability to deliver the intervention.
- Cost-effectiveness.
- The need to reduce the wildlife reservoir of infection.
- Use of properly trained and competent operators.
- Appropriate welfare, safety, regulation and monitoring.

The UFU's detailed response supports controlled shooting subject to a robust regulatory framework and appropriate training, welfare and safety standards.

Pick one or two reasons that matter to you and explain why.

3. Would you support a non-selective cull using baited cages?

GUIDANCE: SUPPORT NON-SELECTIVE CULLING, BUT BAITED CAGES SHOULD NOT BE THE PREFERRED METHOD

Things you could consider:

- Cost.

- Labour requirements.
- Practical difficulties associated with transporting and deploying cages.
- The need for baiting and preparation.
- Whether other methods could deliver the same objective more efficiently.

The UFU's detailed response supports non-selective culling but does not consider baited cages the preferred capture method because of practical, operational and cost concerns.

Make the distinction clear: you can support a non-selective cull without believing baited cages are the best way of delivering it.

4. Would you support a non-selective cull using stopped restraints?

GUIDANCE: YES

Things you could consider:

- Practicality.
- Lower operational costs.
- Ease of transportation.
- Ability to deploy in difficult terrain.
- Operational flexibility.
- Experience of their use in the Republic of Ireland.
- Appropriate training, monitoring and welfare safeguards.

The UFU's detailed response supports stopped restraints specifically within a non-selective culling programme.

5. Would you support Test, Vaccinate or Remove (TVR) using baited cages?

GUIDANCE: NO

Things you could consider:

- Whether the available testing identifies all infected badgers.
- The possibility that infected animals could remain within the population.
- Complexity of the system.
- Costs involved.
- Whether it represents value for money.
- Whether it would deliver the scale and pace of TB reduction farmers need.

The UFU's detailed response raises concerns about diagnostic sensitivity, cost, complexity and the practical effectiveness of TVR.

Which of those concerns matters most to you? Explain it in your own words.

6. Would you support TVR using stopped restraints?

GUIDANCE: NO

The important issue here is TVR itself rather than simply the method used to catch badgers.

The UFU's detailed response opposes TVR irrespective of whether baited cages or stopped restraints are used.

Think about the concerns around testing, cost, complexity and effectiveness and explain which are most important to you.

7. Would you support vaccination-only using baited cages?

GUIDANCE: NO

Things you could consider:

- Vaccination does not remove infection already present.
- Whether vaccination alone would reduce disease quickly enough.
- The need for repeated intervention.
- The resources required.
- Whether it offers the best prospect of achieving meaningful TB reduction.

The UFU's detailed response argues that vaccination-only would result in slower and more limited disease reduction compared with approaches containing a wildlife population reduction element.

8. Would you support vaccination-only using stopped restraints?

GUIDANCE: NO

Again, the issue to consider is vaccination-only, rather than simply the trapping method.

The UFU's detailed response does not support vaccination-only irrespective of the capture method employed.

Explain in your own words why you do or do not believe vaccination alone will deliver what is required.

9. Should wildlife intervention be delivered by the private sector?

GUIDANCE: YES

Things you could consider:

- Farmer involvement.
- Local knowledge.
- Practical delivery.
- Accountability.
- Industry confidence.
- Government regulation and monitoring.

The UFU's detailed response supports private-sector delivery, with DAERA having a role in oversight, regulation and monitoring.

10. Should wildlife intervention be funded by the private sector?

GUIDANCE: YES, BUT WITH APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS

Things you could consider:

- Value for money.
- Transparency over costs.
- Accountability.
- Farmer involvement.
- Industry having appropriate oversight.
- Funding being directed towards an intervention farmers believe will work.

The UFU's detailed response supports reasonable private-sector costs while stressing the importance of industry oversight, farmer confidence and funding being aligned with the intervention being delivered.

If farmers are being asked to contribute, tell DAERA what you would expect in return.

11. Should lay vaccination of badgers be permitted?

GUIDANCE: NO

Things you could consider:

- Whether vaccination should form part of the chosen intervention.
- Veterinary oversight.
- Animal health and welfare.

- Biosecurity.
- Consistency and monitoring of delivery.

The UFU's detailed response does not support extending lay vaccination and raises concerns around veterinary oversight, welfare, health and safety, biosecurity and monitoring.

12. Equality and disability issues

GUIDANCE: RESPOND IF RELEVANT TO YOUR EXPERIENCE

If you have a particular experience or point that is relevant, include it. If you do not have anything relevant to add, there is no need to manufacture a comment.

13. Does the Blueprint contain all the necessary actions to address bTB?

GUIDANCE: MANY OF THE RIGHT ACTIONS ARE THERE, BUT DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION ARE KEY CONCERNS

Things you could consider:

- Are existing measures being implemented quickly enough?
- Have farmers seen sufficient progress?
- Do you have confidence that actions will actually be delivered?
- What needs to happen for you to see meaningful progress?

The UFU's detailed response distinguishes between having the necessary measures written into a strategy and actually implementing those actions effectively and in a timely manner.

YOUR FARM. YOUR EXPERIENCE. YOUR WORDS.

You do not need to write an essay. For most questions, simply remember:

YES / NO
+ WHY I THINK THAT
+ WHAT I HAVE EXPERIENCED
+ WHAT I WANT DAERA TO DO

Consultation deadline: Friday 9 October 2026 at 5pm.