



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

September 2019.

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the Badger Cull Campaign

Thank you for contacting me about controlling the spread of bovine TB.

I am pleased that Scotland has been officially TB free since 2009 and our wildlife, including badgers, is not considered to be a high risk in terms of spreading bovine TB to cattle herds.

Having "Officially Tuberculosis Free Status" does not mean Scotland is completely clear of bovine TB. This status is instead achieved by demonstrating compliance with requirements set out by the EU. A small number of bovine TB cases still occur each year and I would expect the Scottish Government to monitor these cases closely and take further action if necessary.

In England, a review of the Bovine TB Strategy was published at the end of 2018. This review reflected on the progress which has been made in achieving the target of "Officially Tuberculosis Free Status" for England by 2038, and what further actions should be prioritised.

As part of a comprehensive strategic approach, culling continues to play an important role. Overseas experience in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland shows that to eradicate the disease, the problem must be tackled in both cattle and wildlife. Operations continue with new and supplementary licences issued in the High Risk areas of England, and in Low Risk Area of England in the rare event that disease in badgers is linked with infected herds, to prevent further spread.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack".

The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.