

Badger Trust Comment

Cull gets go ahead—but we fight on

The High Court, sitting in Cardiff, has ruled that the Welsh Assembly does have the right to carry out a cull of badgers. Mr Justice Lloyd Jones, giving his judgment in the judicial review challenge brought by the Badger Trust, acknowledged the importance of the challenge and said that the Trust clearly had a legitimate public interest in bringing the case.

Sadly, the “cull”, which in fact will be a non-selective slaughter of badgers, could now go ahead as early as May of this year. We await the Assembly’s decision. Meanwhile we have not yet had the opportunity to consider our next step, but we will do so shortly once we have studied the 42-page written judgment and consulted our legal team.

We are of course disappointed but we have absolutely no regrets about our decision to challenge the Welsh Assembly’s plan and we will continue to do all in our power to protect badgers throughout the United Kingdom.

We have always argued our case on the basis of science and we will continue to do so. The judicial review of course was an argument about the law, NOT about science. We believe that overwhelmingly scientific research has demonstrated that yet another slaughter of badgers will be futile and could indeed be counter productive. Cattle-to-cattle transmission is the root cause of the epidemic.

We will have more to say soon. But for now we would like to thank everyone who has donated money to our cause. We rely entirely on donations, and the cost of this judicial review has run into tens of thousands of pounds. For us that’s a massive investment. So we need your continued support and every penny you feel able to contribute.

While we consider the outcome of the judicial review, we would point to one more very topical major threat to the badger. Both the Conservative Party and the Liberal Democrats favour a cull in England. The Conservative Party, in its manifesto, claims that if elected its cull will be science led. We believe that’s political spin, as are other claims made by the Conservatives’ shadow environment team on this highly contentious issue.

To everyone who cares about badgers we urge you to challenge both Parties NOW. Show them that this is an important election issue. Show them that lots of people care.

For more about the judicial review decision see:

The website of Save The Badger at www.savethebadger.com