

Northern Ireland Badger Group



www.badgersni.org.uk

8th June 2016

Emma Higgs
Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland
10 High Meadows
Duleek
County Meath

Dear Emma

We are very excited by WRI's proposal for a Wildlife Teaching Hospital in Ireland. Your assessment of the current provision accurately reflects our own experience.

As the lead voluntary organisation working for the conservation, protection and welfare of badgers in Northern Ireland, we field the vast majority of casualty reports in the North.

Badger casualties and orphans present specific challenges in terms of treatment, care and rehabilitation. Whilst many veterinary practices are willing to treat badgers and other wildlife, most would acknowledge that their training leaves them ill-equipped to do so. In this respect alone, a teaching hospital would fulfil an important training role currently unavailable to veterinary professionals in Ireland.

As you correctly highlight, the current wildlife care provision rests mainly with the voluntary sector. These groups and individuals achieve a great deal with minimal resources, more often than not beyond the public eye. However, the establishment of a wildlife hospital would provide a flagship resource for this community as well as a platform for developing and promoting best practice.

Care and conservation of wildlife constitute a social challenge as much as zoological or veterinary considerations. Wildlife casualties can provide a valuable interface with the public, especially young people, with unique opportunities for education. We believe that an education facility within the teaching hospital can provide an exemplar for wildlife education in an appropriate environment.

The Northern Ireland Badger Group is pleased to support this proposal and we wish you every success.

Yours sincerely

Peter

Peter Clarke
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Affiliated to the Badger Trust