

Nearly 20,000 badgers have been culled this year, the highest number ever – David Drew

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Drew MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural affairs, commenting on

the Government's release of badger cull statistics today, said:

"The

Government have released these high figures on the first day of Christmas recess. Nearly 20,000 badgers have been culled this year, the highest number ever, as part of an unsafe and unscientific badger cull.

"These

figures show that the Government failed to meet its targets and has adjusted target numbers up and down for every single cull zone, raising serious questions about the accuracy of current badger population estimates.

"In

the same month as announcing a Bill on animal welfare, this Government have overseen a doubling in the number of badgers killed compared to last year.

It's

clear that despite their warm words, the Tories still have a serious problem when it comes to animal welfare.

"Labour

calls on the Government to halt the badger cull across England and formally review its policy on how to tackle bovine TB."