

Changes to the Scottish Bird Gatherings General Licence in force from 00:01 8th November 2021

From: <Chris.Bain2@gov.scot>

Date: 11/06/2021 11:01

To: Undisclosed recipients;;

Dear Colleague,

Changes to the Scottish Bird Gatherings General Licence in force from 00:01 8th November 2021

Please be aware that, taking effect Monday 8th November at 00:01 hours, the [Scottish General Bird Gathering Licence](#) is to be amended to prohibit gatherings of **specified species** of birds.

Following a risk assessment and the introduction of a Great Britain-wide Avian Influenza Prevention Zone, the amended licence will **prohibit gatherings of kept galliformes (chickens, turkeys, pheasants, partridges, quails and other land fowl) and of kept Anseriformes, (ducks, geese, swans and other water fowl)**. Gatherings of all other types of birds will be permitted, provided that the Animal Plant and Health Agency (APHA) has been notified of the gathering at least 7 days before the event and that the gathering meets all the requirements of the general licence.

Gatherings include (but are not limited to) bird fairs, markets, shows, sales, exhibitions, and some premises used for dealing or internet sales. In addition, vehicles used to transport live birds where the birds are brought together from multiple premises (so called many-to-one or many-to-many activities) are also considered gatherings.

Changes to the bird gatherings general licence will come into force in **all three GB administrations** at the same time.

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ)

Colleagues are also reminded that an [Avian Influenza Prevention Zone \(AIPZ\)](#) was declared across whole of Great Britain at 5pm on 3 November 2021. It introduces [strict biosecurity measures](#) for all bird keepers (including those who keep pet birds) to help prevent the spread of avian influenza from wild birds or any other source. The decision to implement this zone follows a risk assessment containing the latest scientific evidence and veterinary advice.

Keepers with more than 500 birds will need to:

- restrict access for non-essential personnel on their sites
- ensure workers change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures
- clean and disinfect site vehicles regularly to limit the risk of disease spreading
- Backyard owners with smaller numbers of poultry including chickens, ducks and geese must also take steps to limit the risk of the disease spreading to their animals.

This applies just as much if you only have a few birds as pets, or if you have a large commercial flock. An outbreak of avian influenza in backyard poultry results in the same restrictions on movement of birds. It has the same impact on farmers and trade in poultry as an outbreak on a commercial farm would have. Good biosecurity improves the overall health and productivity of your flock by helping keep out poultry diseases, such as avian influenza, and limiting the spread of disease in an outbreak.

The AIPZ, now in force across GB, **does not currently include a requirement to house birds**. However, this is being kept under constant review.

We have published more information on [how to spot avian influenza](#).

You should always check whether different arrangements apply in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Keepers must keep a close watch on their birds for any signs of disease, and seek prompt advice from a vet if they have any concerns. Clinical signs indicative of avian influenza must be reported to your local APHA [Field Services Office](#). Failure to do so is an offence.

If you find a single dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks), a single dead bird of prey, or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls) at the same place at the same time, you should report them to **Defra's national telephone helpline: 03459 33 55 77** - please select option 7. It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.

Chris Bain
Policy Officer

Ms. Chris Bain | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD>
Email: Chris.Bain2@gov.scot

We securely store only your name, organisation, email address and contact telephone number in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Your information is not shared with anyone out with the Scottish Government's Animal Health and Welfare Division. Your information is used only to provide you with information relating to animal health and welfare, but in particular information about exotic notifiable animal diseases.

If you would like to UNSUBSCRIBE from receiving updates from us please reply to this email replacing the subject title with "UNSUBSCRIBE" and your details will be deleted permanently from our database.

This e-mail (and any files or other attachments transmitted with it) is intended solely for the attention of the addressee(s). Unauthorised use, disclosure, storage, copying or distribution of any part of this e-mail is not permitted. If you are not the intended recipient please destroy the email, remove any copies from your system and inform the sender immediately by return.

Communications with the Scottish Government may be monitored or recorded in order to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. The views or opinions contained within this e-mail may not necessarily reflect those of the Scottish Government.

Attachments (1 file, 12.7 KB)
- image001.png (12.7 KB)