

## Defra - Avian Influenza Latest Situation - 17 October 2022

From: "SM-Defra-EDC.outbreak.comms (DEFRA)" <EDC.outbreak.comms@defra.gov.uk>  
Date: 10/17/2022 20:37  
To: "SM-Defra-EDC.outbreak.comms (DEFRA)" <EDC.outbreak.comms@defra.gov.uk>

Dear Stakeholder,

### Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

- Following a change in the risk levels and an increase in the number of detections of avian influenza (bird flu) in kept and wild birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared a UK wide Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and captive birds.
- This means that from midday on Monday 17 October, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. Separate AIPZ declarations were made in each UK administration: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- The existing AIPZ with mandatory housing continues to apply in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex.

### New Case in England

- Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 was confirmed in commercial housed poultry on 17 October at a premises near Milleham, Breckland, Norfolk. A 3km Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone were declared around the premises (effective from 18:30 on 17 October 2022).

Keepers can check where disease control zones and regional AIPZs are located in GB and if they are in a zone on the [Animal and Plant Health Agency \(APHA\) interactive map](#), and in Northern Ireland on DAERA's [interactive map](#).

High standards of biosecurity must be maintained by all keepers as good practice for the health and welfare of their birds. Good biosecurity is an essential defence against diseases such as avian influenza and is key to limiting the spread of avian influenza in an outbreak.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is in force across the UK. Separate AIPZ declarations have been made in each UK administration: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In addition, a regional AIPZ including housing measures is in force in Norfolk, Suffolk and parts of Essex.

- In these areas it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.
- In addition, in areas where mandatory housing measures are in force, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers to keep their birds indoors.
- Definitive requirements are set out in the relevant AIPZ Declarations.
- Biosecurity guidance and a biosecurity self-assessment checklist have been published by Defra to assist all bird keepers in instigating and maintaining good biosecurity including compliance with the mandatory AIPZ measures which, together with further updates on the latest avian influenza situation, can be found via [GOV.UK/Bird-Flu](http://GOV.UK/Bird-Flu)

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 in England to Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. In Wales, contact 0300 303 8268. In Scotland, contact to the local Field Services Office. Failure to do so is an offence.

For further information on these cases and details of the measures that apply in the disease control zones currently in force see:

- England: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england>
- Wales: <https://gov.wales/avian-influenza-bird-flu-latest-update>
- Scotland: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu/northern-ireland/>
- Northern Ireland: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/avian-influenza-ai>

To receive immediate notification of new cases and updated zones in GB please sign up to the APHA's Animal Disease alert subscription service further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service>

### Outbreak Case Summary

In summary, the following cases of avian influenza have been confirmed in the UK:

- England
    - 44 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2022/2023
    - 134 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2021/2022
  - Scotland:
    - 2 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2022/2023
    - 11 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2021/2022
  - Wales:
    - 1 case of HPAI H5N1 in 2022/2023
    - 7 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2021/2022
  - Northern Ireland:
    - 1 case of HPAI H5N1 in 2022/2023
    - 6 cases of HPAI H5N1 in 2021/2022
- This is now the largest ever UK outbreak of avian influenza (prior to this the largest number of cases was 26 cases in 2020/2021 and 13 cases in 2016/2017).

APHA publish a report (updated weekly) on findings of HPAI in wild birds in Great Britain and further information on reports of avian influenza in wild bird in Great Britain and across Europe are available via APHAs outbreak assessments. With guidance on wild bird incidents available through the [Mitigation Strategy for Avian Influenza in Wild Birds in England and Wales](#)

Please email [edc.outbreak.comms@defra.gov.uk](mailto:edc.outbreak.comms@defra.gov.uk) if you wish to be removed from this distribution list.

Kind regards,

Laura

Exotic Disease Policy Response Team (EDPRT) Outbreak Communications Cell

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- Picture (Device Independent Bitmap) 1.jpg (32.2 KB)

## Avian Influenza (AI) - Introduction of AIPZ 17-10-2022

From: <Elizabeth.Tidy@gov.scot>  
Date: 10/17/2022 16:17

Dear Colleague,

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was an important disease prevention tool during the 2021-2022 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) season, which was the worst ever UK outbreak of avian influenza, involving 158 cases of HPAI confirmed at premises in the UK (prior to this the largest number of cases was 26 confirmed in 2020/2021 and 13 confirmed in 2016/2017). It is believed that without the AIPZ being in place from 03 November 2021 through to 16 August 2022 (which included a period of mandatory housing measures) the situation would have been much worse.

The start of the new 2022-2023 HPAI outbreak season (which administratively commenced on 01 October 2022) has seen a further upsurge in cases. CVO Scotland has confirmed two cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland, one on the Isle of Lewis on 12 October, and the other in Orkney on 14 October, and we continue to see a high frequency of confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 across the rest of the UK, with 43 cases in England, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland – all since 01 October 2022. This brings the current UK total for the 2022-2023 HPAI outbreak season to 47 confirmed cases (as of 17 October).

Defra have already introduced two regional AIPZs (in South West England and in East Anglia), and APHA have identified a further 84 wild birds in GB infected with HPAI H5N1, through the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme.

As a result of this situation and a range of other factors, including the seasonal return of both resident and migratory wild birds to their wintering sites across the UK, the latest risk assessment has increased the risk of incursion of HPAI H5 in wild birds and of poultry where biosecurity is sub-optimal, from **MEDIUM to HIGH**. The risk of exposure to HPAI H5 to poultry where biosecurity is stringent has been increased from **LOW to MEDIUM**.

This increase in risk means that the risk levels are now more severe than they were in November last year, when the AIPZ was introduced for that season, and so Ministers in all four UK administrations have declared **an AIPZ from 12:00 hours today, Monday 17 October**.

The declaration makes stringent mandatory biosecurity measures mandatory 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, and requires all keepers of poultry or other captive birds (including keepers of game birds, waterfowl, and pet birds) to take immediate action to reduce the risk of disease in their flock by following the relevant biosecurity measures required within the zone. Amongst others, the AIPZ aims to:

- prevent fomite spread from premises to premises
- prevent poultry and other captive birds having contact with wild birds
- prevent poultry and other captive birds having contact with rodents or flood water
- ensure buildings are maintained to prevent access by rodents and wild birds
- ensure buildings are outdoor areas are maintained to prevent ingress from flood water

Specific measures include the requirement for keepers with more than 500 birds to restrict access for non-essential people on their sites, workers will need to change clothing and footwear before

entering bird enclosures and site vehicles will need to be cleansed and disinfected regularly to limit the risk of the 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.

It is also vital that all keepers **remain alert and continue to report suspicion of disease in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds promptly**. Keepers who are concerned about the health or welfare of their flock should seek veterinary advice immediately. Your private vet, or your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office, will be able to provide practical advice on keeping your birds safe from infection.

Keepers must continue to report suspicion of disease in poultry and other captive birds promptly to their local APHA office.

**Poultry shows and gatherings remain prohibited, except under licence.**

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- It is recommended that all bird keepers register on the [GB Poultry Register](#).

- In Great Britain, if you find:

- a single dead bird of prey
- three dead gulls or wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks), or
- five or more dead wild birds of any other species

at the same place at the same time, you should report them to Defra's national GB telephone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.

For more information about avian influenza see [www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza](http://www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza)

A press release announcing the introduction of the AIPZ is also available [here](#).

Chris Bain – Policy Officer  
AHW: Disease Control Branch

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