

Avian Influenza – Cases of disease confirmed in a backyard flock in Grantown on Spey, Highland and in pet birds in Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire – 24 January 2023

From: <Elizabeth.Tidy@gov.scot>

Date: 01/25/2023 11:46

To: Undisclosed recipients;

Subject: Avian Influenza – Cases of disease confirmed in a backyard flock in Grantown on Spey, Highland and in pet birds in Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire – 24 January 2023

Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), Sheila Voas, **confirmed two cases of Highly HPAI H5N1** in Scotland on 24 January 2023:

1. Grantown on Spey, Highland

Birds in a backyard flock of chickens at a premises in Grantown on Spey, Highland, tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1.

In order to limit further spread of disease, appropriate restrictions were been imposed, and a **3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone** were declared, which took effect at **17:55 on 24 January 2023**. Within these zones, a range of different controls and restrictions are implemented. These include, restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.

2. Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire

The CVO has also confirmed that birds at a premises in Clackmannan also tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1.

Following a risk assessment, Scottish Ministers were satisfied, following confirmation of highly pathogenic avian influenza in other captive birds on special category premises, that applying less stringent measures than those set out in articles 26 to 29 of The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 would not endanger disease control.

Therefore, in order to limit further spread of disease, appropriate restrictions were imposed, and a **3 km Surveillance Zone** was declared, which took effect at 19:50 on 24 January 2023. Within this zones, a range of different controls and restrictions have been implemented on poultry and captive bird premises. This includes:

- a requirement to keep a record of visitors, poultry and other captive birds,
- the requirement to implement other biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of the spread of avian influenza to or from the premises;
- and the prohibition on the release game birds.
- **No other movement controls have been imposed.**

Keepers can find out if their premises is in a zone on this [interactive map](#).

In both cases a number of birds on the premises have succumbed to disease and the remaining birds will be humanely euthanised for disease control and animal welfare purposes.

Outbreak Overview

As you will be aware, these are the 17th and 18th confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland in the current 2022/2023 HPAI outbreak season (which began on 01 October 2022). The other Scottish cases are:

- near Tain, Highland – confirmed 21 January 2023
- near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire – confirmed 12 January 2023
- near Forfar, Angus - confirmed 29 December 2022
- near Ladybank, Fife – confirmed 22 December 2022
- near Crieff, Perth and Kinross – confirmed 17 December 2022
- in Forres, Moray – confirmed 14 December 2022
- near Banff, Aberdeenshire (second case) – confirmed on 7 December 2022
- near Turriff Aberdeenshire (third case) – confirmed on 27 November 2022
- near Turriff Aberdeenshire (second case) – confirmed on 20 November 2022
- near Banff, Aberdeenshire – confirmed on 18 November 2022
- near Turriff, Aberdeenshire – confirmed on 5 November 2022
- near Cumnock, East Ayrshire – confirmed on 4 November 2022
- near Kirkwall, Orkney Islands – confirmed 30 October 2022
- near Huntly, Aberdeenshire – confirmed 29 October 2022
- near Tankerness, Orkney Islands – confirmed 14 October 2022
- on Great Bernera, Uig, Isle of Lewis – confirmed 12 October 2022

These cases are part of a wider outbreak that has involved 166 cases of HPAI H5N1 across the UK since 01 October 2022:

- 144 in England
- 18 in Scotland
- 3 in Wales
- 1 in Northern Ireland

The current risk of incursion of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 infection in wild birds is at **VERY HIGH**. The risk of poultry and captive bird exposure to HPAI H5 across Great Britain is at **HIGH** where biosecurity is sub-optimal, and is at **MEDIUM** where stringent biosecurity measures are applied.

Advice for Keepers – Poultry and Other Captive Birds

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was declared across the UK on 17 October, when it became 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.

These measures mean it is a mandatory requirement for keepers to:

- cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds with wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

These measures did not include mandatory housing, but mandatory housing measures have since been introduced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Scottish Government's veterinary advice does not believe the current risk from avian influenza justifies mandatory housing in Scotland. However, the current situation is under constant review.

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they 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, they should report them to Defra's national GB [online reporting tool](#). Alternatively, they can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If they wish to submit a report without

providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. They must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds. **It is advisable that they do not touch these birds.**

- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low.

Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a **very low food safety risk** for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Biosecurity guidance is available providing detail on measures that bird keepers must apply to protect their birds.

Avian influenza is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds you must report it immediately by contacting your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office. Failure to do so is an offence.

GB Poultry Register

In GB, you are legally required to register your birds if you keep more than 50. Keepers with less than 50 birds are strongly encouraged to register. It is also a legal requirement to notify APHA of any significant changes in the average number of birds kept.

Further advice for bird keepers can be found at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Kind regards

Elizabeth

Elizabeth Tidy| Disease Control branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division| Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate.| Scottish Government| P
Spur| Saughton house | Broomhouse Drive| Edinburgh | EH11 3XD>
Tel 0300 244 7549| Email: Elizabeth.tidy@gov.scot

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