

Department of Health and Wellbeing

Environmental Health
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Date: 07 December 2021

Dear Sir / Madam,

RE AVIAN INFLUENZA

Following an outbreak of Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 (bird flu) in kept poultry and wild birds in several locations Defra implemented an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone covering the whole of England. This Prevention Zone came into force on the 3rd of November 2021 and created a legal requirement for all bird keepers in England to adopt strict biosecurity measures.

From the 29th November 2021 new housing measures which will come into force, mean that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK to keep their birds indoors and in addition to the strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.

For the latest updates please go to the following link;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-latest-situation-avian-influenza-prevention-zone-declared-across-great-britain>

This Zone will be in place until further notice and will be kept under regular review as part of our work to monitor the threat of bird flu.

A copy of the order and more detailed information can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

The AIPZ means all bird keepers in Great Britain (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) are required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions.

You must:

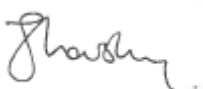
- **keep free-ranging birds in fenced areas to minimise contact with wild birds, neighbouring poultry or captive birds**
- **inspect outdoor areas, removing wild bird contaminants like faeces, feathers and wild bird carcasses**
- **fence off or put netting over areas of standing water or ponds**
- **provide feed and water undercover, so wild birds can't access it**
- **make your premises unattractive to wild birds. Use bird scarers, foils or streamers**
- **keep ducks and geese separate from other poultry**
- **store bedding under cover to reduce the risk of contamination**
- **clean and disinfect footwear before and after tending to your birds. If you own more than 50 birds, place foot dips containing government approved disinfectant at all entry and exit points**
- **clean and disinfect hard surfaces regularly**
- **clean and disinfect equipment and vehicles to avoid disease spread between premises**
- **minimise the movement of people, vehicles and equipment to and from bird areas and keep records of movements**
- **keep records of poultry, captive bird and egg movements**
- **maintain buildings that house birds to prevent water ingress**
- **ensure pest control is effective**

Poultry keepers and members of the public should report dead wild birds to the Defra helpline on 0345 933 5577 and bird keepers should report suspicion of disease to APHA on 03000 200 301.

These are temporary measures to control potential disease and, as with any disease control measures, will be reviewed based on the latest situation and up-to-date scientific advice.

I am sure you will understand the need to comply with these measures as those not adhering to them are not only putting their flocks at risk of catching this disease, but also undermining the efforts of others, including big commercial suppliers, to reduce the risk of further outbreaks. Local authorities are responsible for enforcement of these legal requirements and those that do not comply may be visited and possible further action may be taken.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Joanne Housley
Environmental Health Manager
Specialist Services