

The Welsh Government

Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

1. The Welsh Ministers have carried out a risk assessment under article 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Wales) (No 2) Order 2006 as amended (SI 2006/2927 W.262) (“the Order”).
2. To reduce the risk of the transmission of avian influenza to poultry or other captive birds from wild birds or from any other source, following the increased risk levels of avian influenza transmission affecting Wales, the Welsh Ministers under article 6(1) of the Order declare the whole of Wales, as described in Schedule 6 to this Declaration, an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
3. Pursuant to articles 6(2) and 6(4) of the Order, and having taken account of the criteria set out in article 6(3), the Welsh Ministers consider it necessary to impose the following measures within the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone in order to reduce the risk of transmission of avian influenza.
4. Subject to paragraphs 5 and 6, all keepers of poultry and other captive birds in Wales must comply with the minimum biosecurity measures in Part 1 of Schedule 1 and the requirements in Schedule 3 to this Declaration.
5. In addition to the requirements in paragraph 4-
 - a) where, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 to this Declaration, poultry or other captive birds are permitted access to outdoor areas, keepers must also comply with the requirements in Part 2 of Schedule 1;
 - b) subject to paragraph 6, all keepers of 500 or more poultry or captive birds must comply with the requirements in Schedule 2 to this Declaration.
6. Keepers of poultry or other captive birds at premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 are exempted from the requirements of Schedule 2 to this Declaration. To the extent that it is not reasonably practicable for a keeper so licensed to comply with the requirements in Schedule 3 to this Declaration, that keeper must apply the measures referred to in Schedule 4.
7. A keeper of racing pigeons, doves or other Columbiformes must comply with the requirements in Schedule 5.
8. These measures apply from 12:00 on Tuesday 29 March 2022 and shall remain in force until the declaration is otherwise amended or revoked by further declaration.
9. This Declaration is made under article 6 of the Order. This Declaration revokes the Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone made by the Welsh Ministers on 29 November 2021.

Signed

Gavin Watkins, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

On behalf of the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Dated: 12:00 on 29 March 2022

Copies of this Declaration and of the Order are available via <https://gov.wales/avian-influenza>

Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under section 72 or 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981.

Notes:

- (1) Where avian influenza is confirmed in poultry or other captive birds at an individual premises, Protection, Restricted and Surveillance Zones are declared to prevent the spread of disease beyond the area around the infected farm. Keepers within a Protection, Restricted or Surveillance Zone (or temporary control zones or other low pathogenic restricted zones) must comply with the biosecurity requirements declared specifically for such zones. However, this does not remove the obligation to comply with the additional biosecurity measures required by this Declaration, including enhanced biosecurity measures if the premises contains large numbers of birds.
- (2) “poultry” for the purposes of this Declaration means a bird reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or of other products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds.
- (3) “other captive bird” for the purposes of this Declaration means a bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a pet bird and a bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale.
- (4) “keeper” for the purpose of this Declaration means any person who is responsible for poultry or other captive birds, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (5) “premises” for the purpose of this Declaration means any land, building, house, shed, aviary, range, coop, netted area, yard or open area, which is used to keep poultry or other captive birds and includes contiguous ancillary areas such as bird feed bins, and storage of bird manure.
- (6) “racing pigeons” for the purposes of this Declaration means any pigeon transported or intended for transport from its pigeon house so that it may be released and freely fly back there or to another destination
- (7) “pigeons or doves” means any bird of the order columbiformes;
- (8) “range” for the purposes of this declaration means any outdoor areas where poultry and captive birds are allowed access at any time.
- (9) “covered area” in paragraph 5 in Part 2 of Schedule 1, and in paragraph 2(f) of Schedule 3, to this Declaration means that the area where feed and water are placed must be covered to prevent it being accessed or contaminated by wild birds. Placing feed and water on the ground or in uncovered troughs to which wild birds can gain access is not permitted.
- (10) “zoo” means a zoo, aquarium or premises within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 which is operated under the authority of a licence under that Act or is subject to a dispensation, in a direction under section 14(1) of the Act, that the Act shall not apply to that zoo.
- (11) Nothing in this Declaration removes obligations on keepers of poultry or other captive birds from existing animal welfare requirements, and private veterinary advice should be sought by a keeper who is concerned about the suitability of housing conditions.
- (12) Guidance on biosecurity measures for poultry and kept birds may be found in Animal Health Act biosecurity guidance via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>.

- (13) Anyone who keeps poultry or other captive birds must keep a close watch on them for any signs of disease, and must seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. For details of how to report suspicion of disease see www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu.

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

Part 1

All keepers must take appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspector on request, to ensure that–

- (1) precautions are taken to avoid the transfer of virus contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear. Where there are more than 50 poultry or other captive birds, foot dip must be placed containing an approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate at strategic points including at the entry and exit of all houses or outdoor areas where birds are kept, and footwear must be cleaned using the dips on entry and exit or alternatively disposable over-shoes or footwear should be changed when moving between bird and non-bird areas;
- (2) feed, water and bedding are not exposed to virus contamination, including stored in a means not accessible to wild birds;
- (3) ducks and geese should not be kept in the same pen or building as other species of poultry or captive bird.
- (4) effective vermin control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept;
- (5) the movement of people (other than in a zoo), vehicles or equipment to and from the part of the premises where poultry are kept is reduced to only essential movements for looking after their welfare, collecting eggs, feeding, inspection visits or visits by officials who are authorised by law to be on the premises;
- (6) records are kept (other than in a zoo) of all vehicles that enter any part of the premises where poultry are kept and of all people who come into any direct contact with the poultry;
- (7) records of poultry, captive birds and egg movements must be kept and made available to a veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:
 - the quantity and description (including species of bird or type of egg) transported or marketed;
 - the date of the movement off the premises;
 - the premises of destination (if known);
 - the name and address of the person to whom ownership or possession is being or has been transferred;
- (8) buildings that house the birds are maintained and defects rectified immediately that may allow water ingress or other contamination;

Part 2

Outdoor range areas (all outdoor areas where poultry or other captive birds have access) must be fenced to keep birds within the range and must be actively managed by the keeper to ensure that–

- (1) all reasonable steps are taken to remove from the range area contaminated feathers or faecal material from wild birds that may be present;
- (2) access to open or standing water is restricted (other than in a zoo) by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, or waterlogged land to prevent access by poultry or other captive birds;
- (3) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises;
- (4) ducks and geese should not be kept in the same fenced outdoor range area as other species of poultry or captive bird;
- (5) feed and water are kept, and birds are fed, indoors or under a covered area of the outdoor range area which sufficiently discourages the landing of wild birds and thereby prevents contact with wild birds through water or feed;

- (6) measures are in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor range area, in particular to permanent puddles, ponds or other standing water;
- (7) active measures (for example, bird scares, foils, streamers) are taken to discourage wild birds from entering the outdoor range area;
- (8) any carcasses of wild birds are removed from the outdoor range area;
- (9) there is regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access;
- (10) before placing any new structures or enclosures on land for the purpose of keeping poultry or other captive birds outdoors, the keeper must arrange for the inspection of the relevant site for feathers and faecal matter from wild birds and, if such material is discovered, remove such material; and
- (11) there is regular inspection of the site and consideration that these conditions continue to be met, minimising the risk of contact with wild birds.

Schedule 2 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with 500 or more poultry or captive birds

- (1) All keepers of 500 or more poultry or captive birds must, in addition to the minimum biosecurity measures set out in Schedule 1 to this Declaration, comply with the enhanced biosecurity measures in this Schedule. Separate measures apply to the following parts of the premises on which poultry or captive birds or both are kept –
 - (a) a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part
 - (b) a private (ancillary use) part and
 - (c) a restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part.

- (2) The following measures apply to a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part of the premises–
 - (a) access is restricted to essential authorised personnel only;
 - (b) keepers must operate effective barrier hygiene, including changing clothing and footwear, before entering and on exit from the live-bird part;
 - (c) only essential equipment and vehicles are permitted to enter the live-bird part;
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment which enter or leave the live-bird part of the premises must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit;
 - (e) thorough cleansing and disinfecting (based on industry best practice) of housing and equipment must be undertaken at the end of a production cycle and before new birds are introduced; and
 - (f) records must be kept of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving the live-bird part.

- (3) The following measures apply to a private (ancillary use) part of the premises–
 - (a) access is limited to essential personnel only, and full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit to the part of the premises;
 - (b) this part of the premises should be fully separated from the live-bird part with a clear demarcation;
 - (c) waste and fallen stock must be held in appropriately biosecure facilities in this part of the premises with clear separation between both the live-bird part and the restricted access biosecure barrier part;
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (focussing on wheels and wheel arches) which enters or leaves the part must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit; and,
 - (e) egg producers should ensure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs / farm seconds is managed in a biosecure manner. Plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected before use and records maintained as detailed in paragraph (7) in Part 1 of Schedule 1 to this Declaration.

- (4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (biosecure barrier) part of the premises–
 - (a) access by the public should be controlled and only essential workers or contractors should enter this biosecure barrier part;
 - (b) non-essential vehicles must not enter this biosecure barrier part;
 - (c) keepers must regularly inspect the fabric and structural integrity of any building used to house poultry for holes and leaks, with particular emphasis on roofs, gutters and downpipes. Any holes and leaks must be repaired without undue delay as many recent cases of avian influenza have been linked to water ingress and flooding; and
 - (d) wild game birds should not be fed within 500m of the restricted access part of the premises where this area is under the control of the keeper.

Schedule 3 – Requirements for keepers of poultry or other captive birds within the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

- (1) All keepers must ensure that all poultry or other captive birds are kept housed in buildings in accordance with the following conditions –
 - (a) the buildings must be suitable for the purpose of housing poultry and other captive birds and inspected regularly by the keeper to ensure that they remain suitable for that purpose;
 - (b) any openings in buildings must be covered with suitable mesh or netting sufficient to prevent direct or indirect contact with wild birds;
 - (c) mesh or netting of the kind referred to in subparagraph (b) must not exceed 25mm.

- (2) Where it is not reasonably practicable for a keeper to comply with paragraph (1), the keeper must ensure that all poultry or other captive birds are kept in outdoor areas subject to the following conditions–
 - (a) the outdoor area must be fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material sufficient to prevent direct or indirect contact with wild birds.
 - (b) wire mesh, netting or other material of the kind referred to in subparagraph (a) must not exceed 25mm.
 - (c) paragraph 2(a) does not apply to poultry kept for restocking supplies of game
 - (d) all keepers must ensure that direct and indirect contact is avoided with wild birds and their feathers or faecal matter; and with poultry and other captive birds from other premises.
 - (e) the keeper must, before placing any new structures or enclosures on land for the purpose of keeping poultry or other captive birds outdoors, arrange for the inspection of the relevant site for feathers and faecal matter from wild birds and, if such material is discovered, remove such material;
 - (f) the keeper must provide feed and water in a covered area of the outdoor area.
 - (g) the keeper must ensure that wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular, to standing water or ponds; and,
 - (h) the keeper must regularly inspect the enclosed area to ensure that the conditions in this paragraph are satisfied.

Schedule 4 – Zoos

- (1) To the extent that it is not reasonably practicable for a keeper at a zoo to comply with the requirements of Schedule 3 to this Declaration, that keeper must take such measures as are reasonable and practicable to prevent potential disease spread including–
 - (a) isolating groups of captive birds not housed or fully enclosed in outdoor areas from all other poultry and other captive birds;
 - (b) assessing the risk of public access to indoor captive bird enclosures;
 - (c) controlling entry to outdoor captive bird enclosures including limiting to essential persons;
 - (d) requiring persons to wear suitable personal protective equipment in particular if in direct contact with the captive birds;
 - (e) disinfectant mats must be installed at all points of entry to, and exit from, areas which house poultry and other captive birds and which are for use by visiting members of the public.
 - (f) handwashing facilities must be made available to visiting members of the public if the public are to be admitted to areas of the zoo in which poultry or other captive birds are kept; and
 - (g) in consultation with a private veterinarian, producing robust justification for any deviation and demonstrate the zoo has measures in place to minimize any disease spread from such un-netted outdoor enclosures.

Schedule 5 – Release of Pigeons, Doves and other Columbiformes

- (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of Schedule 1 and 3, a keeper of racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes may:
 - (a) Temporarily let their birds out briefly before feeding each day to meet bird's welfare requirements for up to an hour. Lofts must not be left open for several hours for the birds to come and go as they please. Contact between the racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes either directly or indirectly with wild birds must be minimised wherever possible.
 - (b) Birds from the same loft/pigeon house may also be transported to a point some distance from the home loft/pigeon house and released/liberated and allowed to return to the loft/pigeon house as part of a training and conditioning programme. The vehicle and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a Government approved disinfectant.
 - (c) Provided the gathering is registered with APHA and the conditions of the General Licence for avian gatherings are complied with, multi-loft training, pigeon racing and other columbiforme competitions are permitted while the AIPZ is in force. Birds may be basketed, marked and transported to a liberation site and released to fly back to their home loft/pigeon house. The vehicle/transporter and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a Government approved disinfectant.
 - (d) Pigeons, doves and other columbiformes may be transported to another location and released to fly free at functions and events provided the birds are either gathered again and returned to their home premises as soon as practical or they fly to return to their home premises. Care should be taken to avoid locations where there are large numbers of wild birds or domestic poultry. Events where birds from more than one premises are present is a bird gathering and must be registered with APHA and meet the conditions of the general licence for bird gatherings.

Schedule 6 - Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone applies to the whole of Wales.

The interactive map is available at:

<https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8cb1883eda5547c6b91b5d5e6aeba90d>