

## **The Welsh Government**

### **Declaration of an All-Wales 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 (S.I. 2006/2927 W. 262)<sup>1</sup> (“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 in accordance with article 6(1) of the Order, consider it necessary to declare the whole of Wales, as described in Schedule 5, an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
3. Pursuant to articles 6(2), 6(3) and 6(4) of the Order, the Welsh Ministers consider it necessary to impose the following measures within the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in order to reduce the risk of transmission of avian influenza to poultry or other captive birds from wild birds or from any other source.
4. Subject to paragraphs 5 and 6, all keepers of poultry and other captive birds in the AIPZ must comply with the minimum biosecurity measures in Schedule 1 and the requirements of Schedule 3, to this Declaration.
5. In addition to the requirements of paragraph 4 and subject to paragraph 6, all keepers of 50 or more poultry or other captive birds in the AIPZ must comply with the measures in Schedules 1 and 2 to this Declaration.
6. Keepers of poultry and 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 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. These measures apply from 14:00 on 7 December 2022 until this Declaration is amended or revoked by further declaration.
9. This Declaration is made under article 6 of the Order. It revokes the Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone made by the Welsh Ministers on 2 December 2022.

Signed

Gavin Watkins Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

Under authority of the Minister for Environment, Energy, and Rural Affairs one of the Welsh Ministers

Dated: 14:00 on 7 December 2022

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

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<sup>1</sup> S.I. 2006/2927 (W.262) as amended by the Avian Influenza (Wales) (Amendment and Revocation) Order 2022/280 (W.81).

*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 and Surveillance Zones are declared to prevent the spread of disease beyond the area around the infected farm. Keepers within a Protection, 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 more than 50 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) “range” for the purposes of this Declaration means any outdoor areas where poultry and captive birds are allowed access at any time.
- (7) “covered area” in Schedule 3 paragraph 2 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.
- (8) “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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Guidance on biosecurity measures for poultry and kept birds may be found in Animal Health Act biosecurity guidance via [Biosecurity and preventing disease in captive birds | GOV.WALES](#)
- (11) 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 [Avian influenza \(bird flu\): latest update | GOV.WALES](#)

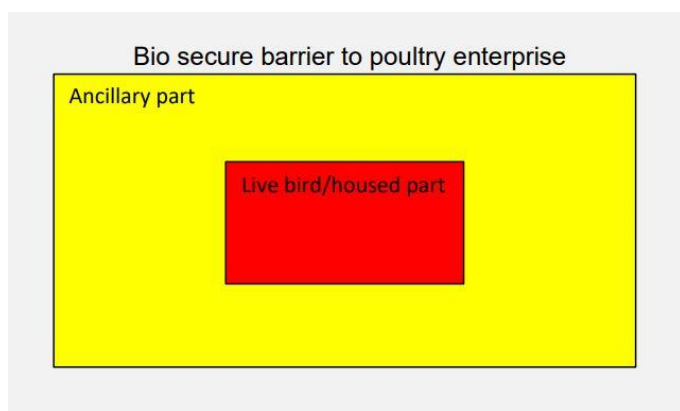
## **Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers**

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 direct or indirect transfer of virus contamination into and between premises, from anything liable to spread infection such as clothing, and by cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear. 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 always 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, particularly through bird droppings, and 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) birds of prey are not fed with any item likely to have been exposed to virus contamination;
  - (6) 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;
  - (7) all personnel are familiar and comply with the applicable requirements in this Declaration;
  - (8) 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;
  - (9) 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;
  - (10) buildings that house the birds are maintained and defects rectified immediately that may allow water ingress or other contamination;
2. All keepers must complete the [Mandatory biosecurity self-assessment checklist](#) within 7 days of this Declaration coming into force.

## Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with 50 or more poultry or captive birds

- (1) All keepers of 50 or more poultry or captive birds must, in addition to the minimum biosecurity measures set out in Schedule 1 of 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 (as illustrated below) –
- (a) a poultry/captive bird (live-bird-housed) part.
  - (b) an ancillary (buffer) part including the area outside the housed part and inside the biosecure barrier.
  - (c) - a restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part which is the effective boundary of the poultry or captive bird section of the property.



- (2) The following measures apply to a poultry/captive bird (live-bird-housed) part of the premises–
- (a) a single personnel access and exit point is restricted to essential authorised personnel only;
  - (b) keepers must operate effective barrier hygiene, including changing clothing, wearing disposable gloves and changing footwear, before entering and on exit from the live-bird-housed part. To facilitate this, a 'transitional area', large enough to allow storage and changing into/out of live bird-housed area must be maintained. Specific clothing and footwear (including dedicated PPE) should be present within the live bird-housed part and have signage. Before entering this area disinfection of boots using an avian influenza approved disinfectant must take place outside in the ancillary area. If boots are soiled, cleaning should precede disinfection and hoses/brushes should be available for this.
  - (c) only essential equipment and vehicles are permitted to enter the live-bird part. This should be a separate single-entry point to the personnel entrance;
  - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment which enter or leave the live-bird-housed part of the premises must be cleansed and disinfected using an AI approved disinfectant 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.
  - (g) 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. Ventilation systems must be checked to prevent any wild bird ingress or contamination.

- (h) egg producers should ensure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs / farm seconds is managed in a bio secure manner. Plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected using an AI approved disinfectant before use and records maintained as detailed in paragraph (7) of Schedule 1 to this Declaration.
- (3) The following measures apply to an ancillary (buffer) part including the area outside the housed part and inside the bio secure barrier–
- (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-housed 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-housed part;
  - (d) As in Schedule 1(2) to this Declaration, feed or bedding must be covered if they are stored in this part, and precautions taken to not allow contamination of wild bird droppings onto feed or bedding when taking to the live bird-housed part;
  - (e) The ancillary part must be kept clean and tidy and should not have any areas that may attract wild birds such as unused buildings or uncovered waste or bedding.
- (4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (biosecure barrier) part of the premises which is the effective boundary of the poultry and captive bird section of the property–
- (a) access by the public should be controlled and only essential workers or contractors should enter this biosecure barrier. Full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit through the barrier including changing of outer clothing and footwear and disinfecting boots using AI approved disinfectant on entering this part from the ancillary part or from outside the premises.;
  - (b) non-essential vehicles must not enter this biosecure barrier. 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 with an AI approved disinfectant;
  - (c) 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.
- (5) Where poultry premises are part of larger, linked enterprises, stringent application of the enhanced biosecurity measures is needed and where possible sharing of staff, equipment and resources between premises should be kept to an absolute minimum.

### **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) Subject to paragraph 3, 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) 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.
  
  - (d) all reasonable steps are taken to reduce access of poultry and other captive birds to areas frequently visited and contaminated by wild waterfowl.
  
  - (e) 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;
  
  - (f) 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;
  
  - (g) the keeper must provide feed and water in a covered area of the outdoor area.
  
  - (h) 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,
  
  - (i) the keeper must regularly inspect the enclosed area to ensure that the conditions in this paragraph are satisfied.
  
  - (j) 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.
  
3. Paragraph 2(a) and 2(e) do not apply to anseriformes, ratites and poultry kept for restocking supplies of game where it has been agreed with a private veterinarian that this is
  - impractical, due to the size or terrain of the area that needs to be covered or,
  - likely to have a negative effect on the welfare of the birds.

#### **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 - 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>