

15 June 2023

Dear

## **ATISN 17515 Request for Information regarding Avian Influenza outbreak**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which we received on 18 May 2023. You asked for: Information regarding the Avian Influenza outbreak at Bettws Hall on 27 April 2023, including:

- How many birds at Bettws Hall were infected with Avian Influenza?
- On what date were symptoms of notifiable avian disease first observed?
- On what date was suspicion of notifiable avian disease reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency
- How many birds (of each type, e.g. pheasant, partridge, etc) were culled?
- What method(s) were used to cull the birds?
- What level of financial compensation was given to the farm, and which body was responsible for paying the compensation?

A copy of the information we have decided to release is enclosed.

Following a search of our paper and electronic records, we have established that some of the information you require is not held by the Welsh Government.

### **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

**1. How many birds at Bettws Hall were infected with Avian Influenza?**

The veterinary assessment was that 158 birds were showing signs consistent with being affected with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) following official confirmation of H5N1 HPAI, and prior to culling.

**2. On what date were symptoms of notifiable avian disease first observed?**

A private vet visited the premises on 26 April 2023 and observed clinical signs that prompted suspicion of notifiable avian disease.

**3. On what date was suspicion of notifiable avian disease reported to the Animal Disease Unit?**

Suspicion of notifiable avian disease was reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 26 April 2023.

**4. How many birds (of each type, e.g. pheasant, partridge, etc) were culled?**

The exact number of birds culled is currently being evaluated.

**5. What method(s) were used to cull the birds?**

The culling operation was performed using containerised gassing units and where required some birds were individually humanely culled on welfare grounds by trained APHA staff.

**6. What level of financial compensation was given to the farm, and which body was responsible for paying the compensation?**

This information is not held by the Welsh Government. The Welsh Government is responsible for compensating keepers for healthy birds which are culled due to notifiable avian disease outbreaks in Wales.