EXD178(AI)(W)
The Welsh Government
Assimilated Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1136
The Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Wales) Regulations 2006

General licence to arrange a fair, market, show, exhibition or other gathering involving the collecting together of other captive birds in Wales

1) In accordance with regulation 6(1) of the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 2006/2803 (W.242)) ("the 2006 Regulations") the Welsh Ministers grant this general licence which permits, subject to compliance by the licensee with the conditions in the Schedule, the gathering of other captive birds with the exception of:

- Anseriforme birds (including ducks, geese, swans)
- Galliforme birds (including pheasants, partridge, quail, chickens, turkey, guinea fowl)
- Ratite birds (including ostriches, emus and rheas)

2) A veterinary risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with regulation 6(3)(a) of the 2006 Regulations.

3) The Welsh Ministers are satisfied that (subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule), bird gatherings and the transit of birds to and from gatherings will not significantly increase the risk of transmission of avian influenza virus.

4) This general licence applies to the collection of other captive birds (excluding those which are listed in paragraph 1) at fairs, markets, shows, exhibitions and other gatherings that are to take place on or after noon on 25 November 2026, subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule.

5) This general licence applies in the higher risk areas (HRAs) identified by the Welsh Ministers under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1136 as a derogation from the prohibition of gatherings in higher risk areas as authorised by the Welsh Ministers under Article 4(4)(e) of that Decision.

6) An epidemiological assessment has been carried out in accordance with Article 4(1) of the Decision.

7) This General Licence may be amended, suspended or revoked at any time in accordance with regulation 3(1) of the 2006 Regulations by the Welsh Ministers with immediate effect if the veterinary risk assessment changes with regard to the risk of spread of avian influenza virus.

8) The general licence for other captive birds (dated 23 June 2026) is hereby revoked with effect from noon on 25 November 2026.

Signed by Natalie Sampson, Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales

For and on behalf of the Welsh Ministers

At 15:00 on 24 November 2026

Non-compliance with this licence constitutes an offence under the 2006 Regulations and on conviction under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 a person may be liable to a fine and/or imprisonment.

Schedule of conditions

General and interpretation

1) In this Schedule:

- “licensee” is the person arranging the bird gathering who is responsible for compliance with the conditions of this licence
- “event” is another term used in this Schedule for an individual gathering
- “participant” is a person who brings birds to a gathering or removes them from the curtilage of a gathering after the event
- “curtilage” of the gathering comprises all areas of a premises or vehicle used for a gathering, which includes areas where live birds and poultry products are kept, and areas where waste (such as bedding, droppings, or other waste material of animal origin) are stored
- “premises” includes any land, buildings or other place. For the avoidance of doubt this means all private or public places, such as car parks, derelict land, and lay-bys
- “vehicle” includes a trailer, semi-trailer or other thing designed or adapted to be towed by another vehicle, a detachable part of any vehicle and a container or other structure designed or adapted to be carried on a vehicle

Notification

2) The licensee must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 7 days before the event.

3) Any notifications to APHA must include at least the following information:

(a) the date (or range of dates) the bird gathering will take place;

(b) the location of the gathering, including full postal address and postcode, and CPH number (if applicable);

(c) details of the licensee, including full name of contact person, contact address, telephone number and email address (where available);

(d) anticipated numbers and type(s) of birds that will be gathered together; and

(e) the purpose or purposes of the gathering.

4) Any changes to the information provided at condition 3 points (a), (b), (c) or (e) or any significant changes in (d) which occur between notification and any event must also be notified to APHA as soon as possible before the event.

5) Where the event takes the form of regular dealing or remote or internet sales then the premises and any vehicle used by the licensee for the gathering of birds following such a sale must be registered with APHA, and the licensee must notify APHA at least annually of the frequency and volume of such sales.

Biosecurity

6) The licensee must take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of notifiable avian disease onto, within and off the premises or vehicle where the gathering is held and that in the event of a disease outbreak or suspicion all birds attending the gathering are traceable.

7) The licensee of any fair, market, show or exhibition must provide biosecurity advice in advance of such an event to all participants that must include:

(a) a recommendation that birds should be health-checked before travelling to any gathering; and

(b) advice that any birds travelling from a gathering to any premises (whether they are returning to premises of origin or to a new location) should be isolated from other birds at that premises and health-monitored for at least one week afterwards.

8) The licensee must also advise participants:

a) to comply with the mandatory registration requirements for keepers of birds kept at any premises in Great Britain; and

b) for any bird attending a gathering in Wales, that they must be registered and must provide their CPH number before being granted entry:

- where the premises of origin is in England or Wales the keeper must be registered with the Animal and Plant Health Agency on the kept bird register;

- where the premises of origin is in Scotland the keeper must be registered on the Scottish Kept Bird Register operated by the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

9) The licensee must not allow any cage, crate, basket, receptacle or other container onto a gathering which is visibly contaminated with bird droppings or other material of bird origin, other than faeces produced during the transportation of the birds to the gathering. The licensee must make this requirement known in advance to all participants in its advertising literature, on entry forms or by any other appropriate means.

10) Thorough cleansing and disinfection of all solid surfaces exposed to birds or faecal material must be carried out by the licensee as soon as practicable after birds have left the gathering and before the next event. These surfaces include, but are not limited to, hard-standing, concrete, paved or tarmac areas, floors, walls, tables and vehicles used at the event. If an area cannot be cleansed and disinfected (for example grassed areas) then a further gathering may not be held until authorised in writing by APHA.

11) The licensee must:

(a) ensure that birds are not permitted to enter a gathering unless the participant declares that they do not originate from premises or areas which are under restrictions related to confirmation of a notifiable avian disease, including from any temporary disease control zone imposed by Ministers and can provide a valid CPH number to verify this (if necessary); and

(c) ensure that when they arrive at the event venue the birds remain isolated from all other birds and mammals on the event site until all such birds have been individually inspected by a sufficiently experienced bird keeper, seller or judge designated by the licensee; and

(d) ensure that any birds that fail the inspection or show any clinical signs of avian notifiable disease during the event, are reported immediately to APHA. Such birds must then be prevented from participating at the gathering and be kept isolated from other birds until examined by a veterinary inspector and written authority obtained from APHA permitting them to leave the gathering.

(e) ensure that waste material, including any feed to which any birds had access, all bedding, droppings, bird carcases or other material of bird origin, that remain at the end of the event, is:

(i) disposed of so that birds (including wild birds) do not have access to them (this should include double-bagging, followed by secure removal by a suitably licensed waste operator); or

(ii) treated so as to remove the risk of transmission of disease; and

(iii) areas where such material is found are also appropriately cleansed and disinfected.

(f) ensure that any cages, crates, baskets, pens or other containers not removed from the premises or vehicle used for the gathering by those attending the gathering are cleansed and disinfected as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the gathering and in any case before they are used again; and

(g) ensure that cleansing and disinfection facilities (for example hand-washing facilities, disinfectant mats and foot-dips) are available to participants and visitors on site, and that participants adhere to good biosecurity practises; and

(h) ensure that anyone seen to be visibly contaminated with faecal material, feathers or other material of bird origin is refused entry to the bird area until such contamination has been removed.

12) The licensee also is recommended to ensure that a veterinary surgeon is available to attend at short notice during the whole time that birds are present at the gathering and ensure that they are consulted for any bird health or welfare concerns. Suspicion of a notifiable avian disease, however, should be reported directly and immediately to APHA.

Location of gathering

13) The gathering must not be located within any notifiable avian disease Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone, Temporary Control Zone, Captive Bird (Monitoring) Control Zone, Temporary Movement Restriction Zone or Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Restricted Area. If such a zone is declared during the course of the gathering, then the contingency plan arrangements (see condition 16 below) must be invoked immediately and advice sought from APHA.

Record keeping

14) The licensee must require all participants bringing birds to a gathering, other than participants bringing racing pigeons to a race event, to complete and return a signed declaration form before allowing entry to where live birds are kept or gathered, confirming:

a) they have read the information provided and will comply with the biosecurity requirements; and

b) that to the best of their knowledge their birds have not been in contact with any notifiable avian disease agents and do not show any signs of infection; and

c) the address of the premises of origin of the birds, with confirmation that the birds do not originate from a premises within a Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone, Temporary Control Zone, Temporary Movement Control Zone or other notifiable avian disease-controlled zone; and

d) that the premises of origin has been registered on the Kept Bird Register (for premises in England and Wales) or the Scottish Kept Birds Register (SKBR) for premises in Scotland, and that they have supplied details of the CPH number (if applicable).

15) The licensee must make a record of all people who bring birds to their gathering, or take such birds from the gathering, and keep such record for at least 3 months following the event. The licensee must present these records when requested by an APHA inspector or Local Authority inspector. The record must be provided to an inspector if requested. The record must include at least the following information:

a) full name;

b) home address including postcode and details of premises of origin of the birds if different from the home address;

c) telephone numbers (landline and/or mobile);

d) email address (if available);

e) number and types of birds exhibited, raced, re-homed, bought or sold, details of the origin and eventual destination of the birds; and

f) the signed declaration referred to in condition 13 (required for all participants except those bringing racing pigeons at a race event)

16) The licensee must require as a condition of entry, for all events or gatherings, that all participants check their birds for disease prior to departure from the event or gathering.

Contingency Plan

17) The licensee must have in place and available for inspection written contingency plan arrangements that set down what will happen if there is suspicion or confirmation of a notifiable avian disease at or near to the event. The plan must include:

(a) how birds suspected of notifiable avian disease will be separated from other birds; and

(b) where notifiable avian disease is suspected at the gathering, the plan must explain how birds will be kept at the premises or vehicle used for the gathering until an APHA Veterinary Inspector has given instructions for birds to leave the premises; and

(c) arrangements to keep birds at the event premises or vehicle used for the gathering if movements off it are restricted because the gathering subsequently becomes located in an avian notifiable disease control zone.

Notes

1) The statutory rules on bird gatherings apply to all bird keepers, whether the birds are kept commercially, as a hobby, or as pets.

2) Control of bird gatherings is intended to reduce the risk of spread of undetected avian influenza virus. Regulation 6 of the Avian Influenza Preventative Measures (Wales) Regulations 2006 prohibits the collecting together of poultry or other captive birds unless licensed by the Welsh Ministers. Article 4(4) of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1136 allows gatherings only if satisfactory biosecurity measures are in place to prevent the risk of transmission of disease. This licence covers a variety of situations where birds are collected together, and the following text is intended to help bird keepers understand whether these rules apply to their activity.

3) The following features indicate a bird gathering is taking place:

- bringing together birds from different source locations to the location of the gathering, and afterwards moving to destination premises, which may be their original locations or new locations
- birds remaining at the gathering location for 14 days or less, following the arrival of the last bird.

4) The following are examples of gatherings:

- bird fairs, markets, shows, sales or exhibitions
- pigeons brought together, including vehicles or liberation pens, for pigeon racing
- catching-up of wild game birds (where they come from multiple locations to a single location and are then moved onwards to different premises)
- movement of birds (except where the movement is direct to slaughter), sales or rehoming of birds, including through dealing or selling via the internet, hen ‘hotels’ (when birds are temporarily located somewhere other than their usual premises) where birds (whether or not these are the ones being sold) have come onto the premises in the previous 14 days
- birds from multiple locations brought onto a vehicle and then dropped off at other multiple locations
- poultry (including Anseriforme or Galliforme birds) or hatching eggs from a single premises that are taken to a different location for display, exhibition, sale and where other captive birds are also present e.g. a falconry display. This gathering is considered to be a poultry gathering.

5) The following are not deemed to be bird gatherings:

- the collection of birds at a licensed slaughterhouse for slaughter
- birds which are brought together from different locations, but where no birds leave until more than 14 days have passed since the last bird arrived on the premises
- selling birds as a dealer or via the internet when no birds leave until more than 14 days have passed since the last bird arrived on the premises (the sale by a commercial dealer of pet birds in any part of a street or public place, or at a stall or barrow in a market is prohibited in accordance with section 2 of the Pet Animals Act 1951)
- where all of the birds brought together have come from the same premises and then return to that premises afterwards
- a sale of birds which have all come from the same single premises (a dispersal sale or ‘re-homing’)

- catching-up of wild game birds during the relevant open season where they have come from multiple locations but are then moved to a single location afterwards, and remain there for breeding or other purposes
- a show involving only table eggs.

The lists in notes 4 and 5 are not intended to be comprehensive.

6) Whilst events which are not gatherings do not need a licence, it is best practice to adopt good biosecurity measures and to keep a record of all movements of birds on and off the premises or vehicle.

7) If you are unsure whether your activity requires a licence, APHA can provide further advice at the contact details below.

8) Article 11 (Racing pigeons) of the Diseases of Poultry (Wales) Order 2003 requires that:

"(1) An organiser of a show or race which takes place wholly or partly in Wales shall ensure that all racing pigeons entered for the race or show have been vaccinated against paramyxovirus 1 in pigeons.

(2) Every person who owns or keeps racing pigeons shall keep a record of every race or show for which he enters his pigeons."

9) The 2006 Regulations contain the following definitions -

"other captive bird" means any bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a pet bird and any bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale

"poultry" means all birds that are reared or kept in captivity for the purposes of:

i. the production of meat or eggs for consumption or other commercial products;

ii. restocking supplies of game; or

iii. any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds or products specified in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii)

But does not include any bird that is kept for the purposes of a single household, where the bird and its keeper have no direct or indirect contact with other poultry or poultry facilities, and the bird and products of the bird are used exclusively within, or for the purposes of the same household.

10) The Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy for Great Britain defines 'notifiable avian disease' as avian influenza and Newcastle disease.

11) The Diseases of Poultry (Wales) Order 2003 defines "racing pigeon" to mean any pigeon transported or intended for transport from its pigeon house (any installation used for keeping or breeding racing pigeons) to be released so that it may freely fly back to its pigeon house or to any other destination.

12) Disinfectants approved for use against poultry diseases are listed at: Defra-approved disinfectants | Disinfectants approved for statutory notifiable animal disease control in GB

13) Anyone in possession of any bird or bird carcase which they suspect may be infected with notifiable avian disease must immediately notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

14) The relevant requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Wales) Order 2007 and/or the Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Wales) (No. 3) Order 2003 must be observed.

15) Further advice on biosecurity measures and any other legislation that may apply can be obtained from Gov.Wales or APHA.

16) For gatherings involving the collecting together of poultry in Wales, you must meet the requirements of the general licence for poultry. Gatherings that include Anseriforme birds (including ducks, geese, swans) must be applied for under a specific licence.

Contacting APHA

18) APHA may be contacted via the:

- Customer Advice Centre at customeradvice@apha.gov.uk
- Customers in Wales Helpline **0300 303 8268**