

01 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

22 Feb: The Protection Zone around the infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, was lifted.

22 Feb: The Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Forres, Moray, was lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.6 million.
- Contracts for Disease Control activities at the current infected premises are awarded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and are subject to a full tender exercise. Animal welfare is highest priority on site for all personnel. We are aware, as part of the call off process for awarding

disease control contacts, one unsuccessful tenderer has raised the question of animal welfare, on the basis that the successful contractor's timetable had the culling commencing a day later than the date they proposed. However, both contracts had identical completion date and animal welfare being managed by the APHA on site.

- Movement restrictions are in place around infected premises, in most cases, placing restrictions on the movement of birds. Movement restrictions will be lifted as soon as the disease eradication and surveillance requirements are fulfilled.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is

considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

Avian Influenza – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus Mutation Found in Scottish Seals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- As a result of further genetic analysis carried out on all of the historical samples, the sequencing done in samples from two seals, collected in 2021 and 2022 in Scotland, has identified a mutation (PB2-E627K). This mutation is well-known as a genetic marker for host adaptation, virulence and transmission of influenza A viruses.
- This is not an unexpected finding. As a single mutation, there is no indication that this virus is becoming fully adapted to a mammalian host, nor will trigger mammal to mammal transmission.
- The infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains uncommon, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme.

- Avian influenza viruses remains predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **827** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **113** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

03 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

2 Mar: The Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Crieff, Perth and Kinross, was lifted.

1 Mar: The Surveillance Zones around the three infected premises near Turriff, Aberdeenshire, were lifted.

1 Mar: The Surveillance Zones around the two infected premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire, were lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6 million.
- Contracts for Disease Control activities at the current infected premises are awarded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and are subject to

a full tender exercise. Animal welfare is highest priority on site for all personnel. We are aware, as part of the call off process for awarding disease control contracts, one unsuccessful tenderer has raised the question of animal welfare, on the basis that the successful contractor's timetable had the culling commencing a day later than the date they proposed. However, both contracts had identical completion date and animal welfare being managed by the APHA on site.

- Movement restrictions are in place around infected premises, in most cases, placing restrictions on the movement of birds. Movement restrictions will be lifted as soon as the disease eradication and surveillance requirements are fulfilled.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

Avian Influenza – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus Mutation Found in Scottish Seals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- As a result of further genetic analysis carried out on all of the historical samples, the sequencing done in samples from two seals, collected in 2021 and 2022 in Scotland, has identified a mutation (PB2-E627K). This mutation is well-known as a genetic marker for host adaptation, virulence and transmission of influenza A viruses.

- This is not an unexpected finding. As a single mutation, there is no indication that this virus is becoming fully adapted to a mammalian host, nor will trigger mammal to mammal transmission.
- The infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains uncommon, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme.
- Avian influenza viruses remains predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **841** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **116** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
 at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).

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06 March 2023

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ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

2 Mar: The Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Forfar, Angus, was lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

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Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6 million.
- Contracts for Disease Control activities at the current infected premises are awarded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and are subject to a full tender exercise. Animal welfare is highest priority on site for all personnel. We are aware, as part of the call off process for awarding disease control contracts, one unsuccessful tenderer has raised the question of animal welfare, on the basis that the successful contractor's timetable had the culling commencing a day later than the date they proposed. However, both contracts had identical completion date and animal welfare being managed by the APHA on site.
- Movement restrictions are in place around infected premises, in most cases, placing restrictions on the movement of birds. Movement restrictions will be lifted as soon as the disease eradication and surveillance requirements are fulfilled.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, **five** otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

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General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **848** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
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08 March 2023

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LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

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- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

Avian Influenza – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus Mutation Found in Scottish Seals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, **five** otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- As a result of further genetic analysis carried out on all of the historical samples, the sequencing done in samples from two seals, collected in 2021 and 2022 in Scotland, has identified a mutation (PB2-E627K). This mutation is well-known as a genetic marker for host adaptation, virulence and transmission of influenza A viruses.
- This is not an unexpected finding. As a single mutation, there is no indication that this virus is becoming fully adapted to a mammalian host, nor will trigger mammal to mammal transmission.
- The infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains uncommon, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme.
- Avian influenza viruses remains predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **848** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
 at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

10 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

8 Mar: *The Protection and Surveillance Zones around the infected premises near Ladybank, Fife, was lifted.*

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6 million.
- Contracts for Disease Control activities at the current infected premises are awarded by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and are subject to a full tender exercise. Animal welfare is highest priority on site for all personnel. We are aware, as part of the call off process for awarding disease control contracts, one unsuccessful tenderer has raised the question of animal welfare, on the basis that the successful contractor's timetable had the culling commencing a day later than the date they proposed. However, both contracts had identical completion date and animal welfare being managed by the APHA on site.
- Movement restrictions are in place around infected premises, in most cases, placing restrictions on the movement of birds. Movement restrictions will be lifted as soon as the disease eradication and surveillance requirements are fulfilled.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, five otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

Avian Influenza – Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus Mutation Found in Scottish Seals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, five otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- As a result of further genetic analysis carried out on all of the historical samples, the sequencing done in samples from two seals, collected in 2021 and 2022 in Scotland, has identified a mutation (PB2-E627K). This mutation is well-known as a genetic marker for host adaptation, virulence and transmission of influenza A viruses.
- This is not an unexpected finding. As a single mutation, there is no indication that this virus is becoming fully adapted to a mammalian host, nor will trigger mammal to mammal transmission.
- The infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains uncommon, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme.
- Avian influenza viruses remains predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. At present there is no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **850** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
 at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

13 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **20 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

10 March: UK CVO confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.

Between 16 and 25 November 2022 ten dogs at a Safari Park in England either died or were euthanised as a result of illness. A range of diagnostic tests were carried out as a result, which all returned negative results.

Unofficial samples were sent to the national reference laboratory in December and were stored for retrospective testing. Following analysis, APHA have **identified the presence of Influenza A virus in nine out of the ten dogs.**

As the case is in England, Defra are leading on the response but given the likely media interest SG policy officials have developed reactive lines and a Q&A is being developed.

8 March: The Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Ladybank, Fife, was lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway **and one in Stirling**. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around **£3.6** million. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is **£6 million**.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals.

- **Scottish Ministers are aware that, on 10 March, UK CVO confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.**
- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022 have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, five otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.

The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people

should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their [local NatureScot area office](#) for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the [Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme](#).

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **857** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find:
 - **a single** dead bird of prey,
 - **three** dead gulls or wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks), or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: [Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77.
- If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

17 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

15 March: The Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway, were lifted.

10 March: UK CVO confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.

8 March: The Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Ladybank, Fife, was lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £3.7 million. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.
- Additional biosecurity measures within the AIPZ were introduced on **Monday 9 January 2023**, to mitigate against the risk of introducing highly pathogenic avian influenza from the catching up of wild game birds (pheasants).
- These measures introduced a standstill of 21 days (except under licence) for wild pheasants caught between 9 January and 28 February 2023.
- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **865** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
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 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
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- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

20 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

15 March: The Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Dumfries and Galloway, were lifted.

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July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around **£5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season**. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is **£6.8 million**.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
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- The Scottish Government will engage with industry, to raise awareness of the risk from this activity and the changes to the avian influenza prevention zone.

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- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

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- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **865** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **117** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

24 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

22 Mar: The Protection and Surveillance Zones around the infected premises near Crossgates, Fife, were lifted.

20 Mar: The Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 in a commercial broiler breeding unit near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has put in place a 1 km Restricted Zone.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Within the 1 km Restricted Zone, declared around the premises infected with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, a range of different controls and restrictions will be implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **870** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **119** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

27 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire. 1 case of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed during this season.**

22 Mar: The Protection and Surveillance Zones around the infected premises near Crossgates, Fife, were lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Within the 1 km Restricted Zone, declared around the premises infected with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, a range of different controls and restrictions will be implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.

- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **874** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **120** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
 at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).

- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

31 March 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

20 Mar: 1 case of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed near Dumfries.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Within the 1 km Restricted Zone, declared around the premises infected with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, a range of different controls and restrictions **have been** implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
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General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
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- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

14 April 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

5 Apr: the Protection and Surveillance Zones around Premises near Grantown - on - Spey, Highland, were lifted.

3 Apr: the Surveillance Zone around the infected premises near Tain, Highland was lifted.

3 Apr: the Protection and Surveillance Zones around the infected premises near Stirling were lifted.

2 Apr: the Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire was lifted.

7 Nov: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all introduced mandatory housing measures. Industry pressure on SG to introduce a legal requirement to temporarily house all poultry, against the advice of Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer, is reducing.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Within the 1 km Restricted Zone, declared around the premises infected with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, a range of different controls and restrictions have been implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
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- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
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General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **895** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **122** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
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- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:

- a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
- at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
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 - Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
 - However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
 - Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

21 April 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

18 Apr: Defra, DAERA, Welsh Government and the Republic of Ireland have all revoked mandatory housing measures. These measures were not introduced in Scotland. An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) remains in place across the whole of the United Kingdom.

17 Apr: the 3 km Surveillance Zones around the infected premises near Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire, was lifted.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Within the 1 km Restricted Zone, declared around the premises infected with low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, a range of different controls and restrictions have been implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, other captive birds or mammals carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- **The Scottish Government in collaboration with the Animal Plant Health Agency hosted a biosecurity workshop for the commercial poultry industry on 19 April.**
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **905** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **122** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species
 at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

28 April 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

24 Apr: *The 1 km Restricted Zone around the infected premises near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, was lifted.*

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- **Following the lifting of the Restricted Zone in Dumfries and Galloway, there are no disease control zones remaining in Scotland.**
- Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**, but this disease control option is being kept under review.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- The Scottish Government in collaboration with the Animal Plant Health Agency hosted a biosecurity workshop for the commercial poultry industry on 19 April.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **934** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **123** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
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- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or

- **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

05 May 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There are **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

24 Apr: The 1 km Restricted Zone around the infected premises near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway, was lifted.

24 Apr: There are no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Currently, with the lifting of the Restricted Zone in Dumfries and Galloway, there are no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
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- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
- The Scottish Government in collaboration with the Animal Plant Health Agency hosted a biosecurity workshop for the commercial poultry industry on 19 April.
- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
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- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **936** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **123** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
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- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

12 May 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). **During the current outbreak, there have been 21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

12 May: There are **currently** no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Currently, with the lifting of the Restricted Zone in Dumfries and Galloway, there are no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
- Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have declared **an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom** to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.
- From **Monday 17th October**, it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu. These measures **do not include mandatory housing**.
- These mandatory practices include the cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear; and the appropriate storing of feed, water and bedding to minimise the risk of virus contamination from wild birds.

Engagement With Stakeholders/UKG, etc.

- Scottish Government meets regularly with the GB Poultry industry through the GB Avian Disease Core Stakeholder Group to discuss the avian influenza outbreak
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- Scottish Government meets frequently with policy and veterinary counterpart across all 4 UK administrations regularly.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- On 10 March, UK Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed the historical presence of Influenza A (H5N1) in a group of bush dogs following retrospective testing of samples at a Safari Park in England.
- During February 2023 H5N1 was detected in a common dolphin in Pembrokeshire and a harbour porpoise in the East Riding of Yorkshire. H5Nx was detected in a common dolphin in Devon.
- Samples taken in Scotland, as part of routine wildlife surveillance in 2022, have also detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, a grey seal and a fox. Elsewhere in the UK, five foxes, five otters and two seals that were found dead in England and Wales. H5Nx was detected in a further four seals, all in Cornwall.
- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There are no published reports of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **951** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **123** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
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 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or

- **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
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Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

19 May 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Risk Briefing

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ISSUE:

The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). During the current outbreak, there have been **21 Scottish Infected Premises, with 7 of these located in Aberdeenshire.**

19 May: There are currently no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.

July 14: A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot is set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Contingency Plan is under development, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in Stirling, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus, one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- Currently, with the lifting of the Restricted Zone in Dumfries and Galloway, there are no premises in Scotland known to be infected by Avian Influenza.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £5.7 million for the 2022/23 outbreak season. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded pressure on our divisional budgets. We continue to work with our Finance Business Partner and colleagues in ARE Finance to identify under spends in the wider directorate to fund this outbreak. The estimated total avian influenza cost for the 2022-2023 financial year is £6.8 million.
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Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

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Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

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General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **994** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **123** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
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- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a **single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or

- **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Ministerial engagements *this should include recent past, present and future events. It should contain details of date, event name, Minister, who the lead SG official is:*

16 June 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **21 Scottish Infected Premises, since 01 October 2022**. In the UK there have been 185 premises infected with HPAI. The most recent cases have been in England and Wales. The most recent case of HPAI in Scotland was 15 February 2023.
- All disease control zones in Scotland have been lifted.
- **The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) remains in place.**
- A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot was set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs in the summer of 2022. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication soon, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The retention of the AIPZ is subject to these assessments **and is currently under active consideration, with a view to lifting.**

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022, have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals (see Q&A).
- Although there have been reports regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus.
- There have been 2 recent confirmed detections of Avian Flu Viruses in poultry workers associated with culling operations. These cases have

been detected as part of ongoing surveillance activities by UKHSA, and neither case was unwell. Follow ups have been undertaken and there is NO evidence of any person to person spread of virus nor any signs of illness

- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.
- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1085** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with 123 findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

EVENTS – *Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.*

29 June 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **22 Scottish Infected Premises, since 01 October 2022**. In the UK there have been **186** premises infected with HPAI.
- **The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 was confirmed in two white-tailed eagles at a Wildlife Centre near Forres, Moray on 23 June.**
- **Both birds infected at the premises were wild birds, and two of a group of six white-tailed eagles transiting through the Wildlife Centre, as part of a conservation programme.**
- **The premises at which the birds are being kept is considered to meet the definition of “non-commercial premises” which in turn allows the premises to be classified as “special category premises” for the purposes of the legislation. On the basis of a risk assessment, this allowed Scottish Ministers to derogate from the application of any disease control zones, although the premises remains under restrictions.**
- **The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) remains in place, but due to a reduction in risk to poultry and other captive birds, there is a strong likelihood that the AIPZ will be lifted in the first week of July 2023.**
- A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot was set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs in the summer of 2022. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication soon, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The retention of the AIPZ is subject to these assessments and is currently under active consideration, with a view to lifting.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022, have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals (see Q&A).
- Although there have been reports regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus.
- There have been 2 recent confirmed detections of Avian Flu Viruses in poultry workers associated with culling operations. These cases have been detected as part of ongoing surveillance activities by UKHSA, and neither case was unwell. Follow ups have been undertaken and there is NO evidence of any person to person spread of virus nor any signs of illness
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1085** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with 123 findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland.
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

EVENTS – Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. **New information should be in red.**

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **23 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK there have been **189** premises infected with HPAI.
- **The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 was confirmed at a commercial premises with 32,000 free range laying hens near Banff, Aberdeenshire on 9 July. A 3km Protection zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) is in place.**
- The other current IP is two white-tailed eagles at a Wildlife Centre near Forres, Moray on 23 June. Both birds infected at the premises were wild birds, and two of a group of six white-tailed eagles transiting through the Wildlife Centre as part of a conservation programme. It is a “non-commercial premises” and classified as “special category premises” for the purposes of the legislation. On the basis of a risk assessment, this allowed Scottish Ministers to derogate from the application of any disease control zones, although the premises remains under restrictions.
- **The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 4 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to Low. ‘Low risk’ does not mean ‘no risk’ and keepers have been advised that the risk to wild birds from avian influenza H5 remains ‘High’ and the virus is still present in the environment. Good biosecurity is still vital and contact with gull species is a particular risk at this time.**
- **There has been an increase in reports of dead seabirds along the east coast, particularly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. However, the overall picture is not yet clear as AI testing has had mixed results and a number of other factors can impact on seabird survival.**
- A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force led by NatureScot was set up to co-ordinate a national response to wild bird die-offs in the summer of 2022. A Scottish Wild Birds Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication soon, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The retention of the AIPZ is subject to these assessments and is currently under active consideration, with a view to lifting.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022, have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals (see Q&A).
- Although there have been reports regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus.
- There have been 2 recent confirmed detections of Avian Flu Viruses in poultry workers associated with culling operations. These cases have been detected as part of ongoing surveillance activities by UKHSA, and neither case was unwell. Follow ups have been undertaken and there is NO evidence of any person to person spread of virus nor any signs of illness
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1188** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **154** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at 7 July). **From 28 June to 4 July 2023, 19 birds were reported and 18 were from Scotland**
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

EVENTS – *Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.*

21 July 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. **New information should be in red.**

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **24 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **191** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- The most recent UK case is in England and was confirmed at a premises in Kent on 20 July. Disease control zones have been applied which incorporate Folkestone, the Channel Tunnel, and routes into Dover. It is unclear at this point what impact this may have on trade of poultry and poultry products.
- The most recent case in Scotland was confirmed at a residential premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire on 15 July in a group of 18 rescued seagull chicks. Following a risk assessment, no disease control zones were implemented although the premises has been declared an infected premises and placed under restrictions accordingly.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 4 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to Low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the North East of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation. The Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication soon, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1375** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 in wild birds, with **260** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **21** July).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)at the same time, you should report them to: Report dead wild birds - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022, have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.

- Although there have been reports regarding highly pathogenic avian influenza in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus.
- The public are advised that, if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – *Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.*

28 July 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **24 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **191** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- The most recent UK case was confirmed at a premises in Kent, England on 20 July. Disease control zones were applied, which incorporate Folkestone, the Channel Tunnel, and routes into Dover. It is unclear at this point what impact this may have on trade of poultry and poultry products.
- The most recent case in Scotland was confirmed at a residential premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire on 15 July in a group of 18 rescued seagull chicks. Following a risk assessment, no disease control zones were implemented although the premises was declared an infected premises and placed under restrictions.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. The Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation. The Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication **on 11 August**, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,486** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **301** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **28 July**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)

you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – <i>Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.</i>
N/A

04 August 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. **New information should be in red.**

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **24 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **191** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- The most recent case in Scotland was confirmed at a residential premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire on 15 July in a group of 18 rescued seagull chicks. Following a risk assessment, no disease control zones were implemented although the premises was declared an infected premises and placed under restrictions.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. The Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation. The Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication on 11 August, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take (*please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.*)

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,509** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **308** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **04 August**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone

helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.

N/A

11 August

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **27 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **194** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent cases in Scotland were confirmed in a small chickens flock at premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and in a commercial pheasants flock near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire on 8th August, and in a small commercial free-range chicken layer flock in Lochcarron, Highlands on 9th August.**
- **As a result, the Scottish Ministers declared all three premises as infected premises (IP), and implemented a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ), and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each IP in accordance with the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 and the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Birds) (Miscellaneous Amendments etc.) (Scotland) Order 2021.**
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. The Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation. The Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Task Force Response Plan has been developed and is due for publication on 11 August, drawing on expertise from the Task Force.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,547** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **325** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **11 August**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.

- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – *Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.*

N/A

18 August 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **31 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **198** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent cases in Scotland were four this week in small commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh and two near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.**
- As a result, the Scottish Ministers declared all three premises as infected premises (IP), and implemented a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ), and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each IP in accordance with the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 and the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Birds) (Miscellaneous Amendments etc.) (Scotland) Order 2021.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. The Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation. **On 11 August Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.**

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,558** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **331** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at 18 August).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)

you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

Avian Influenza and Wild Mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across 4 species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – <i>Outline details of any large upcoming events from your policy area that are due to take place this summer. Particular events of interest include large international events taking place in Scotland, or large domestic ones that are likely to take up significant resource (inc. public services such as blue lights). Please include details on the nature of the event, specific dates, and estimated number of attendees.</i>
N/A

25 August 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. **New information should be in red.**

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **33 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole there have been **200** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 was confirmed at a small commercial poultry premises on the Isle of Lewis on 22 August. A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone were established around the premises.**
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots. The Scottish
- **Scottish Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan on 11 August. This plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.**

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed **thirty-three** premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- **All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:**

- cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
- reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
- minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control
- keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,576** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **333** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **25** August).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

AI in mammals

- Despite international reports of several mass die-off events involving mammals infected with HPAI, only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.

- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 01 October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since 01 October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

01 September 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience – Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. **New information should be in red.**

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **34 Scottish Infected Premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole, there have been **201** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 was confirmed at a commercial smallholding on the Isle of Lewis on 25 August. A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone were established around the IP.**
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.
- Reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots **have reduced somewhat as seabirds depart their summer breeding colonies.**
- Scottish Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan on 11 August. This plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed **thirty-four** premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
 - minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control
 - keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,576** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in wild birds, with **333** findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (as at **01 September 2023**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas

pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

AI in mammals

- Only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 1st October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since 1st October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Gamebirds

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises, SG, in conjunction with NatureScot and the other UK administrations are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza Protection and Surveillance Zones, and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

08 September

Performance, Delivery and Resilience – Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **34 Scottish infected premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole, there have been **202** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland was confirmed at a commercial smallholding on the Isle of Lewis on 25 August. A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone were established around the IP.
- Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 is assessed as **low**, but the risk to wild birds remains **high**.
- Reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east of Scotland and impacting predominantly kittiwakes, black-headed gulls, herring gulls, terns and guillemots have reduced somewhat as seabirds depart their summer breeding colonies.
- Scottish Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan on 11 August. This plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of the AIPZ, or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed thirty-four premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- **The Protection Zone, established around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire on 8th August, was lifted on 7th September 2023. The Surveillance Zone around this premises remains in place.**
- All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
 - minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective vermin control
 - keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified 1,584 wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, with 337 findings in Scotland (as at 8th September 2023).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find in the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone

helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

AI in mammals

- Only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to 1st October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since 1st October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Gamebirds

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.

- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises, SG, in conjunction with NatureScot and the other UK administrations are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza Protection and Surveillance Zones, and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

14 September

Performance, Delivery and Resilience – Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **35 Scottish infected premises (IP), since 01 October 2022**. In the UK as a whole, there have been **204** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- The most recent case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland was confirmed at a large, commercial premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire on 10 September. A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone were established around the IP.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is being regularly assessed.
- The application of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being assessed with a view to application where required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)*

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed **thirty-five** premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- The Protection Zone, established around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire on 8th August, was lifted on 7th September 2023. **The Surveillance Zone was lifted on 12th September. The Protection Zones around the two infected premises near Fraserburgh were lifted on 13 September and the Surveillance Zone around these two premises remains in place.**
- All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:

- cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
- reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
- minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective rodent control
- keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,586** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, with **342** findings in Scotland (as at **14th September** 2023).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find in the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

AI in mammals

- Only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to

1st October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since 1st October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.

- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Gamebirds

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises, SG, in conjunction with NatureScot and the other UK administrations are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza Protection and Surveillance Zones, and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

22 September

Performance, Delivery and Resilience – Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **37 Scottish infected premises (IP), since 1st October 2022**. In the UK as a whole, there have been **206** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent two cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland were confirmed on 15 September, both in small, non-commercial flocks; one on the Isle of Lewis and one on Shetland. In both cases, a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone were established around the premises and veterinary investigations undertaken.**
- Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 is assessed as **low**, but the risk to wild birds remains **high**.
- Although reports of mass mortality events in seabirds have reduced somewhat as seabirds depart their summer breeding colonies, reports of mass mortality events in guillemots continue. It is currently unclear what part HPAI is playing in these events, with positive findings being accompanied by negative findings in tested carcasses.
- Scottish Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan on 11th August. This plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is regularly assessed.
- The application of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being reviewed to determine whether application is required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines)*

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed **thirty-seven** premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- **The 10 km Surveillance Zone established around the premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis was lifted on the 15th of September.**
- **All final disease control zones established around premises near Kirkcudbright between the 14th and 17th of August were lifted on the 19th and 20th of September.**
- All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
 - minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective rodent control
 - keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- Since the 1st of October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified 1,586 wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, with 342 findings in Scotland (as at the **22nd of September 2023**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find in the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk is considered “low” for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

Avian Influenza in mammals

- Only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to the 1st of October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since the 1st of October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaption of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Gamebirds

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on the 15th of December 2022, concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment’s findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises, SG, in conjunction with NatureScot and the other UK administrations are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza Protection Zones and Surveillance Zones, and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.

- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species, consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

29 September 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience – Concurrent Risk Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 12:00 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. New information should be in red.

ISSUE – Avian Influenza

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been **38 Scottish infected premises (IP), since 1st October 2022**. In the UK as a whole, there have been **207** premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- **The most recent two cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland were confirmed on 27 September, both a small, poultry flocks on the Isle of Lewis. A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone was established around the premises and veterinary investigations undertaken.**
- **This is the 6th infected premises on Isle of Lewis this outbreak season, and fifth since beginning of August. In total, 14 infected premises in Scotland since start of August.**
- Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 is assessed as **low**, but the risk to wild birds remains **high**.
- Although reports of mass mortality events in seabirds have reduced somewhat as seabirds depart their summer breeding colonies, reports of mass mortality events in guillemots continue. It is currently unclear what part HPAI is playing in these events, with positive findings being accompanied by negative findings in tested carcasses.
- Scottish Ministers launched the Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan on 11th August. This plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

LEAD MINISTER: Minister for Energy and the Environment

LEAD OFFICIAL: (redacted text)

Key Considerations, Mitigating Action To Be Considered And Taken

- Outbreaks and reports of HPAI in poultry, other captive birds and wild birds are investigated and monitored across the UK. Accordingly, the national risk to poultry, other captive birds and wild birds is regularly assessed.
- The application of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ), or a regional AIPZ, is subject to these assessments and is continuously being reviewed to determine whether application is required.

Key lines to take *(please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines)*

Outbreak

- **Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed **thirty-eight** premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.**
- **Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer confirmed a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in a small flock of 10 chickens and 4 geese on the Isle of Lewis on 27th September.**
- **As a result, a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ), and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) have been applied around the premises.**
- **Within these zones, a range of different controls and restrictions are implemented. These include restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure.**
- All bird keepers should be implementing biosecurity measures to protect their poultry and other captive birds, including:
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept
 - minimising contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and using effective rodent control
 - keeping fresh government approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and other captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water that may attract wild waterfowl, so they are inaccessible to poultry.

Wild Birds

- Since the 1st of October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,588** wild birds infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, with 342 findings in Scotland (as at the **29th of September 2023**).
- In Great Britain you are being advised that if you find in the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck **or gull**, or
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species

you should report them to the report dead wild birds section on gov.uk (www.gov.uk).

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low.

- The risk is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

Avian Influenza in mammals

- Only a small number of individual instances of non-avian species being found to be infected with HPAI H5 have been reported in the UK.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) routinely undertake diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB Wildlife Surveillance Scheme. Retrospective testing on mammalian samples collected prior to the 1st of October 2022 have revealed 15 mammals with HPAI across four species, and since the 1st of October 2022, eight mammals have been detected with the virus.
- This scheme has detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in three harbour seals, one grey seal and a fox in Scotland since October 2022. It is unknown whether HPAI was the reason for death amongst these animals.
- Although there have been reports regarding HPAI in non-avian species from different parts of the world, avian influenza viruses remain predominantly a pathogen that affects birds with a small number of cases of mammals being infected worldwide.
- Evidence of mammal-to-mammal transmission in the wild remains very limited and the available genomic surveillance data reported by APHA in the UK does not suggest widespread mammalian adaptation of the virus.
- The public are advised that if they find a dead animal of any species, not to pick it up, as carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone. Instead, people should note where they saw the dead animal and contact their local NatureScot area office for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report this to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Gamebirds

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on the 15th of December 2022, concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during

July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.

- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises, SG, in conjunction with NatureScot and the other UK administrations are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza Protection Zones and Surveillance Zones, and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species, consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

General

- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned in Scotland remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

EVENTS – N/A

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR CROSSGATES, FIFE - Wednesday, 22/03/2023 2:50 PM

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands.

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR CROSSGATES, FIFE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises near Crossgates, Fife

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declaration **today, Wednesday 22 March 2023**, revoking the 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Crossgates, Fife.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ area near Crossgates, Fife and so the declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 2 February 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Crossgates, Fife.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("The Order"), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 2 February 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 22 March 2023 at least 21 days will have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.** The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of the PZ described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 2 February 2023.

On 22 March 2023 at least 30 days have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 2 February 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 2 February 2023 will be revoked.

Communications:

The existing published declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by DCVO Scotland, (redacted text).

Recommendation:

Officials request that you; print, sign and date the attached declarations **today Wednesday 22 March 2023**, and send scanned PDF copies back, ending the 3km avian influenza Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Crossgates, Fife.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

Kind regards,

(redacted text)

LIFTING OF HPAI PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE FROM A PREMISES NEAR STIRLING - Mon 03/04/2023 09:06

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands.

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR STIRLING

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises near Stirling.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declaration **today, Monday 3 April 2023**, revoking the 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Stirling.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ area near Stirling and so the declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 15 February 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Stirling.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("The Order"), a 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 15 February 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 3 April 2023 at least 21 days will have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.** The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 15 February 2023.

On 3 April 2023 at least 30 days have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 15 February 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 15 February 2023 will be revoked.

Communications:

The existing published declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you; print, sign and date the attached declarations **today Monday 3 April 2023**, and send scanned PDF copies back, ending the 3km avian influenza Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Stirling.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL BROILER BREEDING UNIT NEAR DUMFRIES, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY- Sat 18/03/2023 10:54

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL BROILER BREEDING UNIT NEAR DUMFRIES, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of a notifiable avian disease in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of a notifiable avian disease in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway
- The reactive lines in paragraph 7.

Context and issues

4. A private vet reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds (28 weeks old). Three of the four houses on site are affected. Drop in egg production since last Saturday 11 March, as well as drop in feed and water intake observed. Some birds are reported to be lethargic, but there is no increase in mortality and no other clinical signs observed. An APHA vet is investigating this morning (18 March).

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector is visiting the site this morning, 18 March.

Communications

6. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once initial results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

7. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species

at the same time, you should report them to Defra's national GB [online reporting tool](#). Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your [local Field Services Office](#).
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

8. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions

Financial and legal considerations

9. Not applicable.

Quality Assurance

10. This submission has been approved by the CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (LPAI) H7N3 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL BROILER BREEDING UNIT NEAR DUMFRIES, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Mon 20/03/2023 19:36

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (LPAI) H7N3 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL BROILER BREEDING UNIT NEAR DUMFRIES, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Further to my submission on Saturday 18 March 2023, please see the attached submission regarding HPAI H5N1. In short:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway.
2. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway.
- sign and date the attached Declaration (attached) **as soon as possible today** (20 March 2023) declaring the premises as infected and putting in place a 1km Restriction Zone.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in paragraph 12.

FULL SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – LOW PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (LPAI) H7N3 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL BROILER BREEDING UNIT NEAR DUMFRIES, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway.
2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 has been confirmed in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway.
- sign and date the attached Declaration (attached) as soon as possible today (20 March 2023) declaring the premises as infected and putting in place a 1km Restriction Zone.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in paragraph 12.

Context and issues

4. Further to my submission of 18 March the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as LPAI H7N3 this evening by DCVO Scotland (redacted text).

5. Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) Low pathogenic, avian influenza differ from highly pathogenic viruses regarding their ability to spread and cause disease in birds. Low path is less severe and as infection has few if any clinical signs, outbreaks can be mild and escape detection unless regular testing for viruses is in place. However, influenza viruses in general can mutate and cross between species and increase their pathogenicity. Only H5 and H7 strains are known to be highly pathogenic therefore given the potential risk of evolving into more pathogenic forms, H5 and H7 LPAI outbreaks in poultry are treated seriously and are notifiable. Notifiable LPAI outbreaks are monitored and controlled, although restrictions applicable are less severe than our response to HPAI infections. Not all low pathogenic strains are Notifiable and warrant official restrictions on poultry premises or to the trade of poultry commodities. LPAI viruses are believed to be generally prevalent in wild bird populations in Europe and around the world, and occasionally these viruses will infect domestic poultry flocks.

Report case details

6. A private vet reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a commercial broiler breeder unit with 33,200 birds (28 weeks old). Three of the four houses on site are affected. Drop in egg production since 11 March, as well as drop in feed and water intake observed. Some birds are reported to be lethargic, but there is no increase in mortality and no other clinical signs observed.

What is being done?

7. As a result, the Scottish Ministers must declare the premises as infected premises (IP) and implement a 1km Restriction Zone (RZ) in accordance with article 45 and 53(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. All of the Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza Restricted Zone measures set out in schedule 7 of the Order apply. We do not consider that a zone of more than 1km or additional measures are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease.

8. APHA will humanely cull the remaining birds on the IP and arrange their disposal as well as preliminary cleansing and disinfection of the premises.

Communications

9. APHA have notified the owner of the Infected Premises near Dumfries and Galloway of positive confirmation of disease (LPAI H7N3).

10. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of this new IP and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

11. A local authority update and stakeholder email (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Restricted Zone.

12. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm an outbreak of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H7N3 in a commercial broiler unit near Dumfries, Dumfries and Galloway. This is the 1st outbreak of LPAI H7N3 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 1km Restriction Zone has been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) remains in place across the UK. This means that it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

13. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

14. Subject to determination of the lineage of the birds as it is a pedigree breeder premises the compensation may be significantly higher than the standard valuation rate cards.

Sensitivities

15. The Infected Premises is in the constituency of Alister Jack MP.

Quality Assurance

16. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), DCVO Scotland.

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BIRD OF PREY AT A WILDLIFE RESERVE IN MORAY- Wed 21/06/2023 13:56

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BIRD OF PREY AT A WILDLIFE RESERVE IN MORAY.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of a notifiable avian disease within a small group of white-tailed eagles at a wildlife reserve, near Forres, in Moray.
2. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:
 - suspicion of a notifiable avian disease within a small group of white-tailed eagles at a wildlife reserve, near Forres, in Moray.
 - agree the reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. Yesterday, 20 June 2023, a suspicion of Notifiable Avian Disease (NAD) was reported within a small group of **six white-tailed eagles** at a wildlife reserve, near Forres, in Moray, after a non-negative PCR test result for influenza A (M gene) was obtained by a private vet for **one of the six eagles**. The eagles were due for relocation to the Isle of Wight for release there. Currently the eagles are reported to be healthy, eating and drinking normally. There are also 4 chickens on site, which are considered a separate epidemiological group. The chickens are reported to be well also.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site today and could not rule out notifiable avian disease, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon (22 June) at the earliest.
6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.
8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:
 - Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises near Forres, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
 - The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
 - In Great Britain, if you find:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species

at the same time, you should report them to national GB [online reporting tool](#). Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your [local Field Services Office](#).

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by the CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

IMMEDIATE - Avian Influenza (AI) - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - CONFIRMATION OF HPAI H5N1 IN BIRDS OF PREY NEAR FORRES MORAY - 22-06-2023

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare
23 June 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands
Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – CONFIRMATION OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 IN ONE OF A GROUP OF SIX WHITE-TAILED EAGLES AT A WILDLIFE RESERVE IN MORAY

Purpose

1. To inform you:
 - that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at premises near Forres, Moray.
 - of a recommendation to derogate from applying disease control zones
 - a risk assessment has been commissioned to potentially derogate from culling birds that have tested negative.
 - of a requirement to declare the premises as infected (today, 23 June).

Recommendations

2. To recommend that you:
 - note that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Forres, Moray
 - agree the recommendation not to apply disease control zones.
 - note that a derogation from culling the birds that have tested negative is being considered subject to a risk assessment.

- sign a Declaratory Order confirming this premises as infected (today, 23 June) as soon as possible.

agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 12

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Report Case Details – Scotland

4. Further to my submission of 21 June, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at premises near Forres, Moray has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1. This afternoon the Chief Veterinary Officer formed the opinion that highly pathogenic avian influenza exists, or has in the previous 56 days existed, on these premises.

5. As a result, the Scottish Ministers must declare the premises as infected premises.

Derogation from applying PZ/SZs

6. It has been confirmed that all birds at the infected premises are wild birds transiting through the Wildlife Centre, as part of a conservation programme, for release at a location in the Isle of Wight, England. These activities were licenced by both NatureScot and Natural England. The birds have been classified as “other captive birds” under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006, rather than “poultry” (which would require that the birds are kept in captivity for specified purposes, including the production of meat or eggs for consumption).

7. The premises at which the birds are being kept is accordingly considered to meet the definition of “non-commercial premises” (where the birds are kept by their owners for their own consumption, use or as pets) under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006, which in turn allows the premises to be classified as “special category premises” for the purposes of the legislation.

8. Article 31 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 states that, where highly pathogenic avian influenza has been confirmed in “other captive birds” on special category premises, subject to Scottish Ministers carrying out a risk assessment and being satisfied that less stringent measures would not endanger disease control, the Scottish Ministers may decide: (a) not to declare any controlled zone around the premises;

(b) to declare fewer zones than required under article 26;

(c) to declare a controlled zone smaller in size than provided for in article 27;

(d) to specify in their declaration of a controlled zone that one or more of the measures set out in Schedules 4 for the protection zone and Schedule 5 for the surveillance zone do not apply in that zone.

9. We consider that the conclusions of the attached risk assessment subsequently carried out by APHA (see **Annex A**), supports the assertion that not applying control zones does not endanger disease control. The risk assessment is pending a couple of

changes prior to publication. These do not alter the conclusions of the assessment but are required prior to publication which officials will aim to take place shortly.

10. Updates from the field confirm that there has been no commercial activity at the site and no dangerous contacts have been identified. Therefore, we are recommending Ministers apply a derogation under Article 31 and that you decide not to declare any controlled zones.

11. In accordance with article 19 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), Scottish Ministers should confirm the existence of highly pathogenic avian influenza and declare the premises to be infected premises. A Declaration to be made by Ministers to this effect, but not declaring any controlled zones is attached (see **Annex B**). Once we receive confirmation it has been signed the declaration will be published.

Possible derogation from culling

12. Where highly pathogenic avian influenza is confirmed on special category premises, the Scottish Ministers may decide not to cause all or any of the poultry or other captive birds on those premises to be killed where they consider that this does not materially reduce the effectiveness of measures to prevent the spread of avian influenza. .

13. Factors taken into account when making such a decision include:

- Whether the birds in question are infected or not.
- The biosecurity arrangements that can be put in place at the IP to minimise the risk of onward spread of the AI virus.

14. If the derogation is applied, birds must be brought indoors or isolated, and kept in such a way that they do not have contact with other poultry (including game birds and poultry kept as pets) or other captive birds. Similar steps must also be taken to minimise contact with wild birds.

15. Due to the conservation status of these birds, officials have requested a VRA from APHA to potentially spare from culling the 5 eagles that have tested negative for HPAI. Discussions will be had with the keeper to explain that these birds will remain under restriction for a number of weeks and will be subject to further tests before they are allowed to be moved. It has been highlighted that the containers the eagles are kept in may not be suitable for this length of time as they were due to move to the Isle of Wight this weekend. Therefore the keeper may decide not to spare them.

16. Culling of the positive bird will be undertaken today. Officials will keep you informed of the outcome of the VRA and further reactive communications lines will be prepared for either outcome.

Communications

17. APHA have notified the keeper of the new infected premises near Forres of positive confirmation of disease. Communication colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of this new infected premises and website updates will be issued

today, once the declaration is made. Communications colleagues will proactively highlight on social media.

18. As this case is in six white-tailed eagles it is likely to attract media attention, especially given that the birds are currently asymptomatic for avian influenza. The following reactive lines have therefore been developed:

- The Scottish Government can confirm an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises near Forbes, Moray. This is the 22nd outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Scotland within the 2022/2023 outbreak season.
- Public health bodies have advised that the risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low.
- Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find
 - i. a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
 - ii. or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)

at the same place at the same time, you should report them to the GB national telephone helpline administered by Defra on behalf of SG, Welsh Government: 03459 33 55 77.

A new [online reporting system](#) (available to use 24/7) can also be used by the public to report dead wild birds in Great Britain, as part of the Government response to the ongoing avian influenza outbreak. The online tool does not replace the helpline, which will remain in place.

Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).

- Avian influenza is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds you must report it immediately by contacting your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#). Failure to do so is an offence.
- Further advice for bird keepers can be found at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

19. A local authority update and stakeholder email will also be issued.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
23 June 2023

Copy List	For Action	For Comments	Portfolio Interest	Constituency Interest	General Awareness
Cabinet Secretary for NHS Recovery, Health and Social Care Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero and Just Transition Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism and Trade		(redacted text)	X X X	X	
DG Economy DG Net Zero DG Health & Social Care Director for Agriculture & Rural Economy Deputy Director of Rural Payments and Inspections Division (RPID) Deputy Director of Food and Drink Sheila Voas, Chief Veterinary Officer (redacted text), Animal Health and Welfare (AHW) (redacted text), AHW(redacted text), AHW(redacted text), AHW(redacted text), AHW(redacted text), AHW, Science Advisor(redacted text), AHW, Disease Control(redacted text), AHW, Disease Prevention (redacted text), AHW, Poultry Unit(redacted text), AHW(redacted text), AHW(redacted text), RPID(redacted text), RPID(redacted text), ARE – RPID(redacted text), Agriculture Policy Division(redacted text), Agriculture Policy Division(redacted text), SG Legal Division (SGLD) (redacted text), SGLD(redacted text), SGLD (redacted text) SGLD(redacted text), SGLD(redacted text), SGLD(redacted text), SGLD(redacted text), SGLD(redacted text), SG Wildlife(redacted text), SG Wildlife(redacted text), SG	(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), Public Health(redacted text), SG Finance(redacted text), SG Finance(redacted text), SG Finance, AHW(redacted text), Finance Business Partner(redacted text), SG Marine Scotland(redacted text), SG Marine Scotland(redacted text), SG Marine Scotland (redacted text), SG Marine Scotland(redacted text), SG Marine Scotland(redacted text), SG Marine Scotland				

Wildlife(redacted text), SASA(redacted text)Kate Higgins, Special Advisor (SpAd) Stuart Nicolson, SpAd Harry Huyton, SpAd David Hutchison, SpAd SpAds Admin (redacted text), FSS(redacted text), FSS(redacted text)FSS Comms FSS Incidents Mailbox Comms Net Zero & RA (redacted text), Comms Net Zero & RA(redacted text), Comms Net Zero & RA(redacted text), Comms Net Zero & RA(redacted text), ARE Comms(redacted text), ARE Comms	
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Annex A - Rapid Risk Assessment – near Forres, Moray, Scotland [available on website]

Annex B – Declaration of Infected Premise near Forres, Moray

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF 32,000 CHICKENS NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE - Sun 09/07/2023 11:20

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF 32,000 CHICKENS NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of a notifiable avian disease within a commercial flock of 32,000 chickens near Banff, Aberdeenshire
2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:
 - suspicion of a notifiable avian disease within a commercial flock of 32,000 chickens near Banff, Aberdeenshire
 - agree the reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. Yesterday, 8 July 2023, a private veterinarian reported a suspicion of Notifiable Avian Disease (NAD) in a commercial flock of 32,000 free range layers, 62 weeks of age. The birds are equally distributed between two sheds, only one of them is affected. Reported increase in mortalities with 66 recorded on 7 July and 130 on 8 July. Feed and water intake reported to be in normal range. Egg production in terms of quality is also normal. The flock appears to be depressed, no other obvious clinical signs.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site yesterday and could not rule out notifiable avian disease, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out. Test results are expected this afternoon (9 July) at the earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- In Great Britain, if you find:

- a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
- five or more dead wild birds of any other species

at the same time, you should report them to national GB online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by the CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

**AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE -
CONFIRMATION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK
OF 32,000 CHICKENS NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE - Sun 09/07/2023 17:46**

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) – HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF 32,000 CHICKENS NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Priority and purpose

To:

1. inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in a commercial flock of 32,000 chickens near Banff, Aberdeenshire

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in a commercial flock of 32,000 chickens near Banff, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the attached Declaration (attached) as soon as possible today (9 July 2023) declaring the premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 11.

Context and issues

4. Further to my submission this morning, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Report case details

5. The Infected Premises is a commercial flock of 32,000 chickens near Banff, Aberdeenshire. A private veterinarian reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 8 July 2023, following an increase in mortalities with 66 recorded on 7 July and 130 on 8 July, in one of two sheds on the premises.

What is being done?

6. As a result, the Scottish Ministers must declare the premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 9 July 2023.

7. APHA will humanely cull the remaining birds on the IP and arrange their disposal, as well as preliminary cleansing and disinfection of the premises.

Communications

8. APHA have notified the owner of the Infected Premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

9. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of this new IP and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

10. A local authority update and stakeholder email (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Surveillance Zones.

11. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in a commercial premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire. This is the 23rd outbreak of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.

- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food

safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other speciesat the same time, you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

12. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

13. N/A

Sensitivities

14. None

Quality Assurance

15. This submission has been approved by Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland.

FW: AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE - Sat 05/08/2023 11:47

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) around the infected premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declaration **tomorrow, Saturday 05 August 2023**, (once you have received a further confirmatory email from officials*),

revoking the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zone (PZ) in place around the infected premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

***Please Note: A further submission will be issued tomorrow to state that we have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the PZ/SZ area near Banff, Aberdeenshire and so the declaration can be signed. i.e. this will trigger the request to sign the declaration.**

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 09 July 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 09 July 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 05 August 2023, at least **21 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the 2006 Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.** The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of the PZ described in Annex 2 to the Declarations of 09 July 2023.

In accordance with article 34(2) of the Order, the area which formed the Protection Zone around the premises becomes part of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 09 July 2023. In the remaining Surveillance Zone, the measures set out in schedule 5 of the Order apply.

The Surveillance Zone is marked on the map in Annex 3 of the attached declaration.

Communications

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE**

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - End of the Surveillance Zone near Banff, Aberdeenshire - 14 August 2023 - Mon 14/08/2023 08:51

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR BANFF, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zone (SZ) near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declarations **today, Monday 14 August** revoking the 10 km avian influenza Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you; print, sign and date the attached declarations today Wednesday 14 August 2023, ending the 10 km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire. **The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.**

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

SZ Lifting near Banff, Aberdeenshire:

On 09 July 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Banff, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("the Order"), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared with effect from 09 July 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Following the elapse of **21 days** since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures at all infected premises within the zones declared, Scottish Ministers declared the end of the PZ on 05 August 2023, thereby causing

the area which formed the Protection Zone to become part of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 05 August 2023.

Latest position:

SZ near Banff, Aberdeenshire:

On 14 August 2023 at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 05 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 09 July 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 05 August 2023 will be revoked.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the SZ area near Banff, Aberdeenshire and so the declaration can be signed.

Communications:

The existing published declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN SEAGULLS IN A RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE - Fri 14/07/2023 17:01

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN SEAGULLS AT A RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of a notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a group of 17 seagull chicks at a residential premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of a notifiable avian disease within a group of 17 seagull chicks at a residential premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- agree the reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. An SSPCA inspector reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a group of 17 rescued seagull chicks. Four of the 17 seagull chicks were rescued on 11 July and showed clinical signs indicative of NAD. The keeper contacted an SSPCA inspector who attended on 12 July. One chick had died and the other three were euthanised by the SSPCA on welfare grounds. An APHA vet investigated and confirmed the clinical picture. The remaining 13 birds are reported to be normal upon clinical examination. Given the clinical signs and mortality in the group of 4 rescued on 11 July, NAD cannot be ruled out and samples are being taken.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon (15 July) at the earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) may be applied around the infected premises, although officials have commissioned a Risk Assessment to consider whether a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to

be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- In Great Britain, if you find:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls) at the same time

you should report them to national GB online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by Veterinary Adviser – Exotic and Endemic diseases, International Trade, (redacted text).

**AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE -
CONFIRMATION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN SEAGULLS IN A
RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE - Sat 15/07/2023
17:52**

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – CONFIRMATION OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 IN A GROUP OF CAPTIVE GULLS AT A RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please find attached submission by my colleague (redacted text), in brief:

Purpose

1. To inform you:

- that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- of a recommendation to derogate from applying disease control zones.
- of a requirement to declare the premises as infected (today, 15 July).

Recommendations

2. To recommend that you:

- note that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- agree with the recommendation not to apply disease control zones.
- sign a Declaratory Order confirming this premises as infected (today, 15 July) as soon as possible.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare

15 July 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – CONFIRMATION OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 IN A GROUP OF CAPTIVE GULLS AT A RESIDENTIAL PREMISES IN PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE

Purpose

1. To inform you:

- that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- of a recommendation to derogate from applying disease control zones.
- of a requirement to declare the premises as infected (today, 15 July).

Recommendations

2. To recommend that you:

- note that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- agree with the recommendation not to apply disease control zones.
- sign a Declaratory Order confirming this premises as infected (today, 15 July) as soon as possible.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Report Case Details – Scotland

4. Further to (redacted text)'s submission of 14 July, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire can be confirmed as highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1. This afternoon, the Chief Veterinary Officer formed the opinion that HPAI exists, or has in the previous 56 days existed, on these premises.

5. As a result, the Scottish Ministers must declare the premises as infected premises. The remaining gulls will be humanely euthanised and preliminary cleansing and disinfection applied by the Animal and Plant Health Agency at the premises to prevent the spread of disease.

Derogation from applying PZ/SZs

6. It has been confirmed that all birds at the infected premises are wild birds that have been taken in by a member of the public as an unofficial rescue centre. The birds have been classified as "other captive birds" under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006, rather than "poultry" (which would require that the birds are kept in captivity for specified purposes, including the production of meat or eggs for consumption).

7. The premises at which the birds are being kept is accordingly considered to meet the definition of "non-commercial premises" (where the birds are kept by their owners for their own consumption, use or as pets) under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006, which in turn allows the premises to be classified as "special category premises" for the purposes of the legislation.

8. Article 31 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 states that, where HPAI has been confirmed in "other captive birds" on special category premises, subject to Scottish Ministers carrying out a risk assessment and being satisfied that less stringent measures would not endanger disease control, the Scottish Ministers may decide:

- (a) not to declare any controlled zone around the premises;
- (b) to declare fewer zones than required under article 26;
- (c) to declare a controlled zone smaller in size than provided for in article 27;
- (d) to specify in their declaration of a controlled zone that one or more of the measures set out in Schedules 4 for the protection zone and Schedule 5 for the surveillance zone do not apply in that zone.

9. We consider that the conclusions of the attached risk assessment subsequently carried out by APHA (see Annex A), supports the assertion that not applying control zones does not endanger disease control. The risk assessment is pending a couple of changes prior to publication (in particular confirmation that all remaining gulls in the premises are part of the same epidemiological group and will be culled humanely). These will not alter the conclusions of the assessment but are required prior to publication, which officials will aim to take place shortly.

10. Updates from the field confirm that there has been no commercial activity at the site and no dangerous contacts have been identified. Therefore, we are recommending Ministers apply a derogation under Article 31 and that you decide not to declare any controlled zones.

11. In accordance with article 19 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), Scottish Ministers should confirm the existence of HPAI and declare the premises to be infected premises. A Declaration to be made by Ministers to this effect, but not declaring any controlled zones is attached (see Annex B). Once we receive confirmation it has been signed, the Declaration will be published online.

Communications

12. APHA have notified the keeper of the new infected premises in Peterhead upon positive confirmation of disease. Communication colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of this new infected premises and website updates will be issued today, once the declaration is made. Communications colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

13. The following reactive lines have been developed:

- The Scottish Government can confirm an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. This is the 24th outbreak of HPAI in Scotland within the 2022/2023 outbreak season.
- Public health bodies have advised that the risk to the general public’s health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low.
- Food Standards Scotland (FSS) advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find
 - i. a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, or duck
 - ii. or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)at the same place at the same time, you should report them to the GB national telephone helpline administered by Defra on behalf of the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government: 03459 33 55 77.
- A new online reporting system (available to use 24/7) can also be used by the public to report dead wild birds in Great Britain, as part of the Government response to the ongoing avian influenza outbreak. The online tool does not replace the helpline, which will remain in place.
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- Avian influenza is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds you must report it immediately by contacting your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office. Failure to do so is an offence.
- Further advice for bird keepers can be found at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

14. A local authority update and stakeholder email will also be issued.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
15 July 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Attached

Annex A – Rapid Risk Assessment – in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire [published on website]

Annex B – Declaration of Infected Premises in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Suspicion of Notifiable Avian Disease at a Premises in Garrabost, Na H-Eileanan An Iar.- Mon 07/08/2023 08:58

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACK-YARD FLOCK IN GARRABOST, NA H-EILEANAN AN IAR

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a back-yard flock of 23 chickens in Garrabost, Na H-Eileanan an Iar.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a back-yard flock of 23 chickens in Garrabost, Na H-Eileanan an Iar.
- The reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. On 05 August, a neighbour, who was looking after a flock of 18 free range hens, reported ten deaths since 3rd August, but reduced egg laying was reported prior to this. There is no evidence of predator attack. Half of the remaining birds are dull, lethargic and not eating. Birds have access to sheds and the outside, with the potential for contact with wild birds. Three other properties in the vicinity (within 150m) keep poultry. Since this report was made, another 3 chickens have died and the 10 remaining birds are lethargic, inappetent, pyrexia, some are cyanotic, and one has diarrhoea.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow, 08 August, at the very earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will

be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Garrabost, Na H-Eileanan an Iar. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Confirmation of HPAI at Two Premises and Suspicion of NAD at a third premises. - Tue 08/08/2023 17:12

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS
- HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE
- SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

2. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

4. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

08 August 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS
- HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE

• SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

2. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

4. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

Context and issues

5. Further to my two submissions yesterday, the suspect cases of NAD at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (note change of location title from “near Cullen, Moray”) have both been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

6. Furthermore, suspicion of NAD has been reported at a premises in Lochcarron Highland.

Case details – near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

7. The infected premises is a backyard flock of 23 chickens near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. On 05 August, a neighbour, who was looking after a flock of 23 free-range hens, reported ten deaths since 03 August, but reduced egg laying was noted prior to this. Half of the remaining birds are dull, lethargic and not eating. Birds had access to sheds and an outside area, with the potential for contact with wild birds. Since this report was made, another 3 chickens had died and the 10 remaining birds are lethargic and one had diarrhoea. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

8. Due to the clinical condition of the chickens, the owner requested that all remaining birds be humanely culled on welfare grounds. This was completed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 07 August. APHA will carry out preliminary cleansing and disinfection (C&D).

Case details – near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire

9. The keeper of the flock reported suspicion of NAD in a group of 200 pheasants (8 weeks old) in a rearing pen on 07 August. The 200 pullets were placed on 29 July.

The report detailed a sequence of deaths amongst the flock: 3 on Friday (04/08), 3 on Saturday (05/08), 3 on Sunday (06/08) and 15 yesterday (07/08). There are two pens: 50 birds in one, and 150 pheasants in the other. Mortality occurred in the larger pen. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

10. APHA will humanely cull the remaining birds on the IP and arrange their disposal, as well as preliminary C&D of the premises.

Report case details – Lochcarron, Highland

11. The owner notified suspicion of NAD in a small commercial flock on 07 August 2023. There are 108 birds in two separate pens: 74 adult layers (2-3 years), and 24 juveniles (3-4 months). There was an increase in sudden mortality in the adult layer pen. One chicken died on Friday (04/08), 2 on Sunday (06/08), and 5 on Monday (07/08). One chicken in the adult pen is now showing blue comb discoloration. The rest of the birds are currently clinically well.

What is being done?

12. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at both the premises on the Isle of Lewis and in Aberdeenshire, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. These Declarations will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 08 August 2023.

13. At the premises in Lochcarron, Highland, restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An APHA Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow, 09 August, at the earliest.

14. Should the results in this case prove positive for HPAI, then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the IP, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

15. APHA have notified the owners of both the IPs near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and the one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire, of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

16. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of these new IPs and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

17. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zones.

18. For the suspect case, officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration (likely tomorrow afternoon/evening).

19. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1; one at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one at a premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire. These are the 25th and 26th cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.

- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises in each case, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.

- Meanwhile, investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find a the same place at the same time:

- o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
- o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)

you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

20. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

21. N/A

Sensitivities

22. None

Quality Assurance

23. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), Deputy CVO Scotland.

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Declaration of end of PZ and SZ (AIV 2023/38, near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis) - 15 September 2023 - Fri 15/09/2023 12:57

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Friday 15 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ area near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and so the Declaration can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 08 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("The Order"), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 08 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 15 September 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 8 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 8 August 2023 would then be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Communications:

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Friday 15 September 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copy back, ending the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR CULLEN, MORAY. - Mon 07/08/2023 17:47

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR CULLEN, MORAY.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a commercial flock of pheasants near Cullen, Moray.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a commercial flock of pheasants near Cullen, Moray.
- The reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. The keeper of the flock has reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a group of 200 pheasants (8 weeks old) in a rearing pen. The 200 pullets were placed on 29 July. Report tells of sequence of deaths amongst the flock: 3 on Friday, 3 on Saturday, 3 on Sunday and 15 today, 07 August 2023. There are two pens: 50 birds in one pen, and 150 pheasants in the other. The mortality has occurred in the larger pen. The birds do not show neurological or respiratory signs. The examined birds had high temperatures and one bird had a watery oral discharge. No significant changes in the post-mortem examination.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site this afternoon and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Restrictions include prohibiting the movement any poultry or captive birds to or from the premises, including the release of gamebirds. Test results are possible tomorrow, 08 August, but may not be available until 09 August.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises near Cullen, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Confirmation of HPAI at Two Premises and Suspicion of NAD at a third premises. - Tue 08/08/2023 17:12

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- **HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS**
- **HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE**

- **SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND**

Priority and purpose

20. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

21. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

22. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendation

23. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **as soon as possible today** (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

08 August 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS
- HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE
- SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

2. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

4. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

Context and issues

5. Further to my two submissions yesterday, the suspect cases of NAD at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (note change of location title from “near Cullen, Moray”) have both been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

6. Furthermore, suspicion of NAD has been reported at a premises in Lochcarron Highland.

Case details – near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

7. The infected premises is a backyard flock of 23 chickens near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. On 05 August, a neighbour, who was looking after a flock of 23 free-range hens, reported ten deaths since 03 August, but reduced egg laying was noted prior to this. Half of the remaining birds are dull, lethargic and not eating. Birds had access to sheds and an outside area, with the potential for contact with wild birds. Since this report was made, another 3 chickens had died and the 10 remaining birds are lethargic and one had diarrhoea. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

8. Due to the clinical condition of the chickens, the owner requested that all remaining birds be humanely culled on welfare grounds. This was completed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 07 August. APHA will carry out preliminary cleansing and disinfection (C&D).

Case details – near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire

9. The keeper of the flock reported suspicion of NAD in a group of 200 pheasants (8 weeks old) in a rearing pen on 07 August. The 200 pullets were placed on 29 July. The report detailed a sequence of deaths amongst the flock: 3 on Friday (04/08), 3 on Saturday (05/08), 3 on Sunday (06/08) and 15 yesterday (07/08). There are two pens: 50 birds in one, and 150 pheasants in the other. Mortality occurred in the larger pen. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

10. APHA will humanely cull the remaining birds on the IP and arrange their disposal, as well as preliminary C&D of the premises.

Report case details – Lochcarron, Highland

11. The owner notified suspicion of NAD in a small commercial flock on 07 August 2023. There are 108 birds in two separate pens: 74 adult layers (2-3 years), and 24

juveniles (3-4 months). There was an increase in sudden mortality in the adult layer pen. One chicken died on Friday (04/08), 2 on Sunday (06/08), and 5 on Monday (07/08). One chicken in the adult pen is now showing blue comb discoloration. The rest of the birds are currently clinically well.

What is being done?

12. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at both the premises on the Isle of Lewis and in Aberdeenshire, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. These Declarations will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 08 August 2023.

13. At the premises in Lochcarron, Highland, restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An APHA Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow, 09 August, at the earliest.

14. Should the results in this case prove positive for HPAI, then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the IP, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

15. APHA have notified the owners of both the IPs near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and the one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire, of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

16. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of these new IPs and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

17. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zones.

18. For the suspect case, officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration (likely tomorrow afternoon/evening).

19. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1; one at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one at a premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire. These are the 25th and 26th cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.

- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises in each case, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- Meanwhile, investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
 - Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

20. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

21. N/A

Sensitivities

22. None

Quality Assurance

23. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), Deputy CVO Scotland.

Kind regards,

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

08 August 2023

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Immediate - Lifting of Protection Zone around Infected Premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire - 07 Sept 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declaration **today, Thursday 07 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zone (PZ) in place around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the PZ area near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire and so the Declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background

On 08 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 08 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position

On 07 September 2023, at least **21 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the 2006 Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the PZ and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises**. The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of the PZ described in Annex 2 to the Declarations of 08 August 2023.

In accordance with article 34(2) of the Order, the area which formed the Protection Zone around the premises becomes part of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 08 August 2023. In the remaining Surveillance Zone, the measures set out in schedule 5 of the Order apply.

The Surveillance Zone is marked on the map in Annex 3 of the attached Declaration.

Communications

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE**

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE. - Tue 12/09/2023 09:08

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE.

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zone (SZ) near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declarations **today, Tuesday 12 September 2023**, revoking the 10 km avian influenza Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the SZ area and so the declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

SZ Lifting near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire:

On 08 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("the Order"), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km

Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared with effect from 08 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Following the elapse of 21 days since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures at all infected premises within the zones declared, Scottish Ministers declared the end of the PZ on 07 September 2023, thereby causing the area which formed the Protection Zone to become part of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 08 August 2023.

Latest position:

SZ near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire:

On 12 September 2023 at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 07 September 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 08 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 07 September 2023 will be revoked.

Communications:

The existing published declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you; print, sign and date the attached declarations **today, Tuesday 12 September 2023**, and send scanned PDF copies back, ending the 10 km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

Copy List [as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Confirmation of HPAI at Two Premises and Suspicion of NAD at a third premises. - Tue 08/08/2023 17:12

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- **HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS**
- **HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE**
- **SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND**

Priority and purpose

24. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

25. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

26. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendation

27. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **as soon as possible today** (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

08 August 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA:

- **HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN BACKYARD FLOCK OF CHICKENS NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS**

- HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF PHEASANTS NEAR PORTSOY, ABERDEENSHIRE
- SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.

2. To also inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

4. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises in Scotland, one near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire.
- sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (08 August 2023), declaring these two premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises.
- note suspicion of NAD at a further premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 19.

Context and issues

5. Further to my two submissions yesterday, the suspect cases of NAD at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (note change of location title from “near Cullen, Moray”) have both been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

6. Furthermore, suspicion of NAD has been reported at a premises in Lochcarron Highland.

Case details – near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

7. The infected premises is a backyard flock of 23 chickens near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. On 05 August, a neighbour, who was looking after a flock of 23 free-range hens, reported ten deaths since 03 August, but reduced egg laying was noted prior to this. Half of the remaining birds are dull, lethargic and not eating. Birds had access to sheds and an outside area, with the potential for contact with wild birds. Since this report was made, another 3 chickens had died and the 10 remaining birds are lethargic and one had diarrhoea. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

8. Due to the clinical condition of the chickens, the owner requested that all remaining birds be humanely culled on welfare grounds. This was completed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 07 August. APHA will carry out preliminary cleansing and disinfection (C&D).

Case details – near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire

9. The keeper of the flock reported suspicion of NAD in a group of 200 pheasants (8 weeks old) in a rearing pen on 07 August. The 200 pullets were placed on 29 July. The report detailed a sequence of deaths amongst the flock: 3 on Friday (04/08), 3 on Saturday (05/08), 3 on Sunday (06/08) and 15 yesterday (07/08). There are two pens: 50 birds in one, and 150 pheasants in the other. Mortality occurred in the larger pen. Samples were taken on 07 August and sent to the National Laboratory in Weybridge.

10. APHA will humanely cull the remaining birds on the IP and arrange their disposal, as well as preliminary C&D of the premises.

Report case details – Lochcarron, Highland

11. The owner notified suspicion of NAD in a small commercial flock on 07 August 2023. There are 108 birds in two separate pens: 74 adult layers (2-3 years), and 24 juveniles (3-4 months). There was an increase in sudden mortality in the adult layer pen. One chicken died on Friday (04/08), 2 on Sunday (06/08), and 5 on Monday (07/08). One chicken in the adult pen is now showing blue comb discoloration. The rest of the birds are currently clinically well.

What is being done?

12. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at both the premises on the Isle of Lewis and in Aberdeenshire, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. These Declarations will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 08 August 2023.

13. At the premises in Lochcarron, Highland, restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An APHA Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow, 09 August, at the earliest.

14. Should the results in this case prove positive for HPAI, then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the IP, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

15. APHA have notified the owners of both the IPs near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and the one near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire, of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

16. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of these new IPs and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

17. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zones.

18. For the suspect case, officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration (likely tomorrow afternoon/evening).

19. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1; one at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, and one at a premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire. These are the 25th and 26th cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises in each case, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- Meanwhile, investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find a the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

20. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

21. N/A

Sensitivities

22. None

Quality Assurance

23. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), Deputy CVO Scotland.

Kind regards,

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

08 August 2023

Copy List [as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Confirmation of HPAI at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland - Wed 09/08/2023 16:41

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED AT A PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

28. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed in a small, commercial flock of 108 chickens in Lochcarron, Highland.

29. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendation

30. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland,
- print, sign and date the attached Declaration **as soon as possible today** (9 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently, and
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

09 August 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL FLOCK OF CHICKENS IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland.
- print, sign and date the attached Declaration as soon as possible today (9 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague Chris Bain's submission yesterday, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

Case details – Lochcarron, Highland

5. The owner notified suspicion of NAD in a small commercial flock of chickens on 07 August 2023. There are approximately 108 birds in two separate pens: adult layers (2-3 years), and juveniles (3-4 months). There was an increase in sudden mortality in the adult layer pen. One chicken died on Friday (04/08), 2 on Sunday (06/08), and 5 on Monday (07/08). An APHA veterinary investigation was undertaken on Tuesday (08/08) and NAD could not be ruled out, and samples were taken and sent to APHA Weybridge for testing. A further 3 birds were found dead yesterday and today 7 more birds have died and approximately 40 are lethargic. Feed and water consumption has reduced dramatically and egg production has dropped by 50%.

What is being done?

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises in Lochcarron, Highland, the Scottish Ministers must declare this premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 09 August 2023.

Communications

7. APHA have notified the owner of the IP in Lochcarron of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

8. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of the new IP and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

9. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

10. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1; at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland. This is the 27th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

11. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

12. N/A

Sensitivities

13. None

Quality Assurance

14. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), Deputy CVO Scotland.

Kind regards,

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

09 August 2023

Copy List [as previous submission]

Immediate - Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Lifting of Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone around Premises in Lochcarron, Highland - Thu 05/10/2023 11:11

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES IN LOHCARRON, HIGHLAND.

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises in Lochcarron, Highland.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Thursday 5 October 2023**, revoking the 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises in Lochcarron, Highland.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ area in Lochcarron, Highland and so the Declaration can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 9 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises in Lochcarron, Highland. Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("The Order"), a 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 9 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 5 October 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 9 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 9 August 2023 would then be revoked.

Communications:

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Thursday 5 October 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copy back, ending the 3 m avian influenza Protection Zone and 10km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises in Lochcarron, Highland.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Sun 13/08/2023 16:27

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose: To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations: To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in the submission.

Context and issues: On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. **All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.**

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
13 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

Context and issues

4. On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. These are two shooting estates 1km apart from each other in Aberdeenshire, near Fraserburgh. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

First report at case (case ref:DPR 2023 110)

5. On 12 August a member of a syndicate pheasant shoot reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. There are approximately 750 pheasants ages 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 11 August with 20 dead and a further 50 found dead and 50 looking lethargic on 12/08.

6. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported another 72 pheasants dead today and 70 appear very unwell. The birds are sitting on the ground, fluffed up and reluctant to move. Feed consumption has reduced dramatically. Post-mortem examination of three carcasses did not reveal any abnormalities.

Second report case (Case ref: DPR 2023 111)

7. On 12 August the owner of a second premises near Fraserburgh reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in approximately 1620 pheasants aged 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 12 August with approximately 50 dead. The premises is approximately 1km from the first suspect case (DPR 2023 110) and is under the same ownership with strong epidemiological links between both sites.

8. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported there are two groups of pheasants on this site with 900 pheasants and 750 pheasants in each, separated by approx. 150 metres. Mortality in the affected group of 900 is approx. 50%. The remaining birds are very dull, reluctant to move and some are

showing neurological signs. Post-mortem examination revealed congested lungs. Samples are being taken and submitted to Weybridge for testing.

Third report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/113)

9. The owner reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease today (13/8) of 2,000 pheasants aged 7 weeks old. The birds are split between 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. In the pen of 1,000 birds, approx. 50 were found dead today and some of the birds are dull, have swollen heads and are showing neurological signs.

What is being done?

10. Restrictions have been placed on all three premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited both sites in Aberdeenshire today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. Both premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 14 August, at the very earliest. A veterinary inspector has been dispatched to carry out an investigation and the third suspect premises near Kirkcudbright and it is anticipated given the epidemiological links and clinical picture that samples will be taken.

11. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire did not detect disease at the site of the supplier. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises appear to be affected, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier will be carried out should any of these results be confirmed as HPAI H5N1. The supplier is now under official movement restrictions preventing the movement on and off premises that may spread disease.

Communications

12. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for these cases are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

13. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck

- o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

14. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

15. We are liaising with SG solicitors in the highly likely event that HPAI H5N1 is confirmed on both premises. There are complications in that the birds have technically been released and may be classed as wild birds. This may affect how we can legally respond to the findings and the level of government intervention that is possible such as the implementation of Protection and Surveillance Zone (SZ).

Sensitivities

16. These cases if confirmed as HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

Quality Assurance

17. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
13 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Mon 14/08/2023 19:59

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

31. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

32. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations

33. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations **as soon as possible today** (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

FULL SUBMISSION

From (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
14 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fourth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/114)

5. Following the investigation by APHA at DPR 2023/113 it was identified that the owner has further pheasants at another premises near Kirkcudbright roughly 5 km away which were also clinically unwell. APHA undertook an investigation as the

premises this morning which holds approximately 2000 birds around 7 weeks old. The birds are split into 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. Approximately 50 were found dead yesterday. This fourth premises is also linked to the other three as they share the same supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the two commercial poultry premises near Fraserburgh and the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 14 August 2023. Any remaining live birds will be humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. Officials and APHA will work with the keepers and game industry representatives to encourage proactive collection of any pheasants.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/114

7. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Kirkcudbright today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 15 August, at the very earliest.

8. However given the confirmation of disease at DPR 2023 113, that both premises are owned by the same keeper plus the deteriorating clinical picture of the birds on site, deputy CVO (redacted text) has taken the precautionary decision to slaughter birds on suspicion of notifiable avian disease to prevent the spread of disease and protect the welfare of the birds. No temporary control zone has been deemed necessary as the site is already under restrictions, the site will be within an existing surveillance zone and results will be expected tomorrow which will require the introduction of a new protection one and surveillance zone if HPAI H5N1 is identified.

Epidemiological investigations

9. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (confirmed 08/08) did not detect disease at the site of the supplier.

10. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises have been confirmed as diseased, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier is underway. Following an investigation and risk assessment at the source premises the deputy CVO may decide to declare it a dangerous contact. If declared a dangerous contact, all birds on the premises will be humanely culled and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the further

spread of disease. APHA are still investigating all potential likely sources of infection but with 4 confirmed infected premises and 1 suspected premise having all received birds from the same source it is one of the primary lines of investigation.

11. A large number of wild birds have been confirmed as having HPAI H5N1 in recent months across Scotland, in particular in seabirds. Both Fraserburgh and Kirkcudbright are close to coastal areas so there is likely a heavy levels of infection in the environment. The season for the release of pheasants normally begins in the middle of June and advice is that most pheasants will have been released by now.

12. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. APHA will visit all 6 premises to investigate for notifiable avian disease. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the four confirmed sites and 1 suspect premises. As such APHA have immediately placed this premises under official movement restrictions to prevent any disease transmission whilst the veterinary investigation is underway.

Communications

13. APHA have notified the owners for the three infected premises, two near Fraserburgh and one near Kirkcudbright. They have also notified the owner of DPR 2023 114 that deputy CVO has taken the decision to slaughter on suspicion.

14. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/114 are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

15. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

16. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a three cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at 2 premises near Fraserburgh and a premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 28th, 29th and 30th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food

safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

17. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

18. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the three infected premises and one premise slaughtered on suspicion to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

19. These confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

20. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials have been proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

21. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

14 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONES AROUND TWO PREMISES IN FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE.- Wed 13/09/2023 17:33

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND TWO PREMISES IN FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zones (PZ) around **two** infected premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached declarations **today, Wednesday 13 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zones (PZ) in place around the two infected premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the PZ or SZ areas in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and so the Declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a two premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around each of the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position

On 13 September 2023, at least **21 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the 2006 Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the PZ, and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around these premises.** The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of both Protection Zones described in Annex 2 to the Declarations of 14 August 2023.

In accordance with article 34(2) of the Order, the area which formed the Protection Zones around the premises becomes part of the Surveillance Zones described in Annex 3 to the Declarations of 14 August 2023. In the remaining Surveillance Zones, the measures set out in schedule 5 of the Order apply.

The Surveillance Zones are marked on the maps in Annex 3 of the attached Declarations.

Communications

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **TWO DECLARATIONS OF END OF PROTECTION ZONES**

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES AROUND TWO PREMISES NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE.- Mon 18/09/2023 10:51

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND TWO PREMISES NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zones (SZ) around **two** infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached declarations **today, Monday 18 September 2023**, revoking the 10km avian influenza Surveillance Zones (SZ) in place around the two infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the SZ areas in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and so the Declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around each of the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position

On 18 September 2023 at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 13 September 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 14 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 13 September 2023 will be revoked.

Communications

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **TWO DECLARATIONS OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES**

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Sun 13/08/2023 16:27

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose: To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations: To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in the submission.

Context and issues: On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. **All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.**

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

13 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

Context and issues

4. On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. These are two shooting estates 1km apart from each other in Aberdeenshire, near Fraserburgh. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

First report at case (case ref:DPR 2023 110)

5. On 12 August a member of a syndicate pheasant shoot reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. There are approximately 750 pheasants ages 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 11 August with 20 dead and a further 50 found dead and 50 looking lethargic on 12/08.

6. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported another 72 pheasants dead today and 70 appear very unwell. The birds are sitting on the ground, fluffed up and reluctant to move. Feed consumption has reduced dramatically. Post-mortem examination of three carcasses did not reveal any abnormalities.

Second report case (Case ref: DPR 2023 111)

7. On 12 August the owner of a second premises near Fraserburgh reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in approximately 1620 pheasants aged 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 12 August with approximately 50 dead. The premises is approximately 1km from the first suspect case (DPR 2023 110) and is under the same ownership with strong epidemiological links between both sites.

8. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported there are two groups of pheasants on this site with 900 pheasants and 750 pheasants in each, separated by approx. 150 metres. Mortality in the affected group of 900 is approx. 50%. The remaining birds are very dull, reluctant to move and some are showing neurological signs. Post-mortem examination revealed congested lungs. Samples are being taken and submitted to Weybridge for testing.

Third report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/113)

9. The owner reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease today (13/8) of 2,000 pheasants aged 7 weeks old. The birds are split between 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. In the pen of 1,000 birds, approx. 50 were found dead today and some of the birds are dull, have swollen heads and are showing neurological signs.

What is being done?

10. Restrictions have been placed on all three premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited both sites in Aberdeenshire today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. Both premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 14 August, at the very earliest. A veterinary inspector has been dispatched to carry out an investigation and the third suspect premises near Kirkcudbright and it is anticipated given the epidemiological links and clinical picture that samples will be taken.

11. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire did not detect disease at the site of the supplier. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises appear to be affected, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier will be carried out should any of these results be confirmed as HPAI H5N1. The supplier is now under official movement restrictions preventing the movement on and off premises that may spread disease.

Communications

12. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for these cases are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

13. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

14. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

15. We are liaising with SG solicitors in the highly likely event that HPAI H5N1 is confirmed on both premises. There are complications in that the birds have

technically been released and may be classed as wild birds. This may affect how we can legally respond to the findings and the level of government intervention that is possible such as the implementation of Protection and Surveillance Zone (SZ).

Sensitivities

16. These cases if confirmed as HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

Quality Assurance

17. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

13 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Mon 14/08/2023 19:59

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
 ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
 14 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fourth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/114)

5. Following the investigation by APHA at DPR 2023/113 it was identified that the owner has further pheasants at another premises near Kirkcudbright roughly 5 km away which were also clinically unwell. APHA undertook an investigation at the premises this morning which holds approximately 2000 birds around 7 weeks old. The birds are split into 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. Approximately 50 were found dead yesterday. This fourth premises is also linked to the other three as they share the same supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the two commercial poultry premises near Fraserburgh and the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 14 August 2023. Any remaining live birds will be humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. Officials and APHA will work with the keepers and game industry representatives to encourage proactive collection of any pheasants.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/114

7. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Kirkcudbright today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 15 August, at the very earliest.

8. However given the confirmation of disease at DPR 2023 113, that both premises are owned by the same keeper plus the deteriorating clinical picture of the birds on site, deputy CVO (redacted text) has taken the precautionary decision to slaughter birds on suspicion of notifiable avian disease to prevent the spread of disease and protect the welfare of the birds. No temporary control zone has been deemed necessary as the site is already under restrictions, the site will be within an existing surveillance zone and results will be expected tomorrow which will require the introduction of a new protection one and surveillance zone if HPAI H5N1 is identified.

Epidemiological investigations

9. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (confirmed 08/08) did not detect disease at the site of the supplier.

10. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises have been confirmed as diseased, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier is underway. Following an investigation and risk assessment at the source premises the deputy CVO may decide to declare it a dangerous contact. If declared a dangerous contact, all birds on the premises will be humanely culled and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the further spread of disease. APHA are still investigating all potential likely sources of infection but with 4 confirmed infected premises and 1 suspected premise having all received birds from the same source it is one of the primary lines of investigation.

11. A large number of wild birds have been confirmed as having HPAI H5N1 in recent months across Scotland, in particular in seabirds. Both Fraserburgh and Kirkcudbright are close to coastal areas so there is likely a heavy levels of infection in the environment. The season for the release of pheasants normally begins in the middle of June and advice is that most pheasants will have been released by now.

12. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. APHA will visit all 6 premises to investigate for notifiable avian disease. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the four confirmed sites and 1 suspect premises. As such APHA have immediately placed this premises under official movement restrictions to prevent any disease transmission whilst the veterinary investigation is underway.

Communications

13. APHA have notified the owners for the three infected premises, two near Fraserburgh and one near Kirkcudbright. They have also notified the owner of DPR 2023 114 that deputy CVO has taken the decision to slaughter on suspicion.

14. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/114 are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

15. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

16. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a three cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at 2 premises near Fraserburgh and a premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 28th, 29th and 30th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

17. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

18. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the three infected premises and one premise slaughtered on suspicion to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

19. These confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

20. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials have been proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

21. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
14 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONES AROUND TWO PREMISES IN FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE.- Wed 13/09/2023 17:33

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND TWO PREMISES IN FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zones (PZ) around **two** infected premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached declarations **today, Wednesday 13 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zones (PZ) in place around the two infected premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the PZ or SZ areas in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and so the Declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a two premises in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around each of the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position

On 13 September 2023, at least **21 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the 2006 Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the PZ, and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around these premises.** The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of both Protection Zones described in Annex 2 to the Declarations of 14 August 2023.

In accordance with article 34(2) of the Order, the area which formed the Protection Zones around the premises becomes part of the Surveillance Zones described in Annex 3 to the Declarations of 14 August 2023. In the remaining Surveillance Zones, the measures set out in schedule 5 of the Order apply.

The Surveillance Zones are marked on the maps in Annex 3 of the attached Declarations.

Communications

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **TWO DECLARATIONS OF END OF PROTECTION ZONES**

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES AROUND TWO PREMISES NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE.- Mon 18/09/2023 10:51

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND TWO PREMISES NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zones (SZ) around **two** infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached declarations **today, Monday 18 September 2023**, revoking the 10km avian influenza Surveillance Zones (SZ) in place around the two infected premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

We have received confirmation from APHA that there are no further report cases within the SZ areas in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and so the Declaration can be signed.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("the Order"), a 3km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around each of the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position

On 18 September 2023 at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 13 September 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 14 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 13 September 2023 will be revoked.

Communications

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **TWO DECLARATIONS OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES**

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY- Sun 13/08/2023 16:27

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose: To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations: To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in the submission.

Context and issues: On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. **All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.**

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
13 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD in two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

Context and issues

4. On 13 August an APHA vet has visited both suspect premises in Aberdeenshire and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Official samples have now been taken and sent to the UK National Reference laboratory in Weybridge for testing. These are two shooting estates 1km apart from each other in Aberdeenshire, near Fraserburgh. They are the final destination of reared pheasants where they are released for shooting and have already been released in release pens. The third site is a report case and is also believed to be a shooting estate. All three premises have links to the supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

First report at case (case ref:DPR 2023 110)

5. On 12 August a member of a syndicate pheasant shoot reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. There are approximately 750 pheasants ages 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 11 August with 20 dead and a further 50 found dead and 50 looking lethargic on 12/08.

6. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported another 72 pheasants dead today and 70 appear vey unwell. The birds are sitting on the ground, fluffed up and reluctant to move. Feed consumption has reduced dramatically. Post-mortem examination of three carcasses did not reveal any abnormalities.

Second report case (Case ref: DPR 2023 111)

7. On 12 August the owner of a second premises near Fraserburgh reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in approximately 1620 pheasants aged 8-9 weeks old. Sudden onset mortality occurred on 12 August with approximately 50 dead. The premises is approximately 1km from the first suspect case (DPR 2023 110) and is under the same ownership with strong epidemiological links between both sites.

8. During the official veterinary enquiry today (13/8) the APHA vet has reported there are two groups of pheasants on this site with 900 pheasants and 750 pheasants in each, separated by approx. 150 metres. Mortality in the affected group of 900 is approx. 50%. The remaining birds are very dull, reluctant to move and some are showing neurological signs. Post-mortem examination revealed congested lungs. Samples are being taken and submitted to Weybridge for testing.

Third report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/113)

9. The owner reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease today (13/8) of 2,000 pheasants aged 7 weeks old. The birds are split between 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. In the pen of 1,000 birds, approx. 50 were found dead today and some of the birds are dull, have swollen heads and are showing neurological signs.

What is being done?

10. Restrictions have been placed on all three premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited both sites in Aberdeenshire today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. Both premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 14 August, at the very earliest. A veterinary inspector has been dispatched to carry out an investigation and the third suspect premises near Kirkcudbright and it is anticipated given the epidemiological links and clinical picture that samples will be taken.

11. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire did not detect disease at the site of the supplier. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises appear to be affected, a review of all sites that have received birds form this supplier

will be carried out should any of these results be confirmed as HPAI H5N1. The supplier is now under official movement restrictions preventing the movement on and off premises that may spread disease.

Communications

12. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for these cases are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

13. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at two premises near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.

- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

14. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

15. We are liaising with SG solicitors in the highly likely event that HPAI H5N1 is confirmed on both premises. There are complications in that the birds have technically been released and may be classed as wild birds. This may affect how we can legally respond to the findings and the level of government intervention that is possible such as the implementation of Protection and Surveillance Zone (SZ).

Sensitivities

16. These cases if confirmed as HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

Quality Assurance

17. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
13 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Mon 14/08/2023 19:59

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND

ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

14 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fourth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/114)

5. Following the investigation by APHA at DPR 2023/113 it was identified that the owner has further pheasants at another premises near Kirkcudbright roughly 5 km away which were also clinically unwell. APHA undertook an investigation at the premises this morning which holds approximately 2000 birds around 7 weeks old. The birds are split into 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. Approximately 50 were found dead yesterday. This fourth premises is also linked to the other three as they share the same supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the two commercial poultry premises near Fraserburgh and the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 14 August 2023. Any remaining live birds will be humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. Officials and APHA will work with the keepers and game industry representatives to encourage proactive collection of any pheasants.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/114

7. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Kirkcudbright today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 15 August, at the very earliest.

8. However given the confirmation of disease at DPR 2023 113, that both premises are owned by the same keeper plus the deteriorating clinical picture of the birds on site, deputy CVO (redacted text) has taken the precautionary decision to slaughter birds on suspicion of notifiable avian disease to prevent the spread of disease and protect the welfare of the birds. No temporary control zone has been deemed necessary as the site is already under restrictions, the site will be within an existing surveillance zone and results will be expected tomorrow which will require the introduction of a new protection one and surveillance zone if HPAI H5N1 is identified.

Epidemiological investigations

9. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (confirmed 08/08) did not detect disease at the site of the supplier.

10. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises have been confirmed as diseased, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier is underway. Following an investigation and risk assessment at the source premises the deputy CVO may decide to declare it a dangerous contact. If declared a dangerous contact, all birds on the premises will be humanely culled and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the further spread of disease. APHA are still investigating all potential likely sources of infection but with 4 confirmed infected premises and 1 suspected premise having all received birds from the same source it is one of the primary lines of investigation.

11. A large number of wild birds have been confirmed as having HPAI H5N1 in recent months across Scotland, in particular in seabirds. Both Fraserburgh and Kirkcudbright are close to coastal areas so there is likely a heavy levels of infection in the environment. The season for the release of pheasants normally begins in the middle of June and advice is that most pheasants will have been released by now.

12. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. APHA will visit all 6 premises to investigate for notifiable avian disease. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the four confirmed sites and 1 suspect premises. As such APHA have immediately placed this premises under official movement restrictions to prevent any disease transmission whilst the veterinary investigation is underway.

Communications

13. APHA have notified the owners for the three infected premises, two near Fraserburgh and one near Kirkcudbright. They have also notified the owner of DPR 2023 114 that deputy CVO has taken the decision to slaughter on suspicion.

14. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/114 are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

15. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

16. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a three cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at 2 premises near Fraserburgh and a premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 28th, 29th and 30th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022

resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.

- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

17. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

18. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the three infected premises and one premise slaughtered on suspicion to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

19. These confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

20. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials have been proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

21. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
14 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

AVIAN INFLUENZA - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Tue 19/09/2023 10:51

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) around the infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached declaration **today, Tuesday 19 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zone (PZ) in place around the infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation:

That you print, sign and date the attached declaration as soon as possible today (19 September 2023), declaring an end to the 3 km Protection Zone around the infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.

Background:

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 19 September 2023, at least **21 days** will have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the 2006 Order at the infected premises. Veterinary inquiries have also been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone and **APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises**. The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) of the Order, the end of the PZ described in Annex 2 to the Declarations of 14 August 2023.

In accordance with article 34(2) of the Order, the area which formed the Protection Zone around the premises becomes part of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 14 August 2023. In the remaining Surveillance Zone, the measures set out in Schedule 5 of the Order apply.

The Surveillance Zone is marked on the map in Annex 3 of the attached Declaration.

Communications

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE**

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Immediate - Lifting of Disease Control Zones in Dumfries and Galloway - Wed 20/09/2023 15:47

Minister for Energy and the Environment

- **LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND FIRST PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY; AND**
- **LIFTING OF BOTH PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND SECOND PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the second infected premises Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, revoking the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and so the Declarations can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background and Latest Position:

First Premises:

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 14 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 14 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 19 September 2023 will be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Second Premises:

On 17 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a second premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 17 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 17 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 17 August 2023 would then be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Communications:

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copies back, ending the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and ending both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Attached:

- **DECLARATION OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE FIRST PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**
- **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE SECOND PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Mon 14/08/2023 19:59

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Please see attached submission. Briefly:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

14 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a second premise near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and the flock will be humanely culled on suspicion that it is also infected with HPAI .
- Note epidemiological investigations are ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (14 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 16.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at three commercial pheasant premises, two near Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire and one in Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fourth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/114)

5. Following the investigation by APHA at DPR 2023/113 it was identified that the owner has further pheasants at another premises near Kirkcudbright roughly 5 km away which were also clinically unwell. APHA undertook an investigation as the premises this morning which holds approximately 2000 birds around 7 weeks old. The birds are split unto 3 pens; one with 1000 birds and the others with 500 each. Approximately 50 were found dead yesterday. This fourth premises is also linked to the other three as they share the same supplier site which supplied pheasants to the premises near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire where highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 confirmed on 08 August 2023.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the two commercial poultry premises near Fraserburgh and the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the

case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 14 August 2023. Any remaining live birds will be humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. Officials and APHA will work with the keepers and game industry representatives to encourage proactive collection of any pheasants.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/114

7. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Kirkcudbright today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 15 August, at the very earliest.

8. However given the confirmation of disease at DPR 2023 113, that both premises are owned by the same keeper plus the deteriorating clinical picture of the birds on site, deputy CVO (redacted text) has taken the precautionary decision to slaughter birds on suspicion of notifiable avian disease to prevent the spread of disease and protect the welfare of the birds. No temporary control zone has been deemed necessary as the site is already under restrictions, the site will be within an existing surveillance zone and results will be expected tomorrow which will require the introduction of a new protection one and surveillance zone if HPAI H5N1 is identified.

Epidemiological investigations

9. The initial veterinary investigation that was carried out following the confirmed case of HPAI H5N1 near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire (confirmed 08/08) did not detect disease at the site of the supplier.

10. Now that more birds that have originated from the same premises have been confirmed as diseased, a review of all sites that have received birds from this supplier is underway. Following an investigation and risk assessment at the source premises the deputy CVO may decide to declare it a dangerous contact. If declared a dangerous contact, all birds on the premises will be humanely culled and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the further spread of disease. APHA are still investigating all potential likely sources of infection but with 4 confirmed infected premises and 1 suspected premise having all received birds from the same source it is one of the primary lines of investigation.

11. A large number of wild birds have been confirmed as having HPAI H5N1 in recent months across Scotland, in particular in seabirds. Both Fraserburgh and Kirkcudbright are close to coastal areas so there is likely a heavy levels of infection in the environment. The season for the release of pheasants normally begins in the middle of June and advice is that most pheasants will have been released by now.

12. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. APHA will visit all 6 premises to investigate for notifiable avian disease. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the four confirmed sites and 1 suspect

premises. As such APHA have immediately placed this premises under official movement restrictions to prevent any disease transmission whilst the veterinary investigation is underway.

Communications

13. APHA have notified the owners for the three infected premises, two near Fraserburgh and one near Kirkcudbright. They have also notified the owner of DPR 2023 114 that deputy CVO has taken the decision to slaughter on suspicion.

14. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/114 are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

15. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

16. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a three cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at 2 premises near Fraserburgh and a premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 28th, 29th and 30th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have been taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations. We are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Bute House Agreement implications

17. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

18. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the three infected premises and one premise slaughtered on suspicion to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

19. These confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1 are likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

20. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials have been proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

21. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

14 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

RE: IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Thu 17/08/2023 15:44

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Please see the attached submission. In brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a game farm premise near Forfar, Angus.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a premise near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (17 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

17 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a game farm premise near Forfar, Angus.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a premise near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (17 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission of 16 August, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fifth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/116)

5. DPR 2023/116 is game farm which supplied the pheasants to the 5 confirmed infected premises(IPs) near Portsoy, Fraserburgh, and Kirkcudbright. APHA officials conducted further investigations at the premises yesterday but there were no clinical signs of disease. Plans were already in place to take samples from birds on the premise today as it has been linked to the 5 IPs. However the owner of the premises reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a group of 8000 pheasants. Four birds were found dead this morning and some other birds are displaying lethargy and neurological signs. The other pheasants(5000) and partridges (12,000) on the premises appear to be in good health.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. On 16 August due to delays to culling and to avoid any delays in the implementation of robust disease control measures deputy CVO (redacted text) decided to implement a temporary control zone mirroring the surveillance zone controls you would expect to see if HPAI were confirmed. This put controls on poultry, poultry products, vehicles and other material that is liable to spread disease. Such temporary declaratory orders do not need a minister's signature and therefore the declaration was signed by DCVO and came into effect at 4:15pm that day.

7. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 17 August 2023 and revoke the temporary control zone declaration of 16 August. All birds have been humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/116

8. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Forfar, Angus today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 18 August, at the very earliest.

Epidemiological investigations

9. A full epidemiological investigation remains ongoing and APHA have taken swift action to investigate the source and spread of disease. Although all premises are linked by the same supplier it is not conclusive that the supplier is this source of infection. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the five confirmed sites. APHA have visited the premises yesterday and confirmed that the birds appear healthy, the premises remains under restriction.

Communications

10. APHA have notified the owners of the infected premises, near Kirkcudbright.

11. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/116 near Forfar, Angus are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

12. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder

emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

13. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a further case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at a second premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 31st case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises we are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.

- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Biosecurity

HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.

Gamekeepers are responsible for protecting their flock and biosecurity is the most important risk mitigating factor under the gamekeeper's control. To minimise the risk of HPAI, it is essential they ensure:

- Gamebirds when in captivity are not exposed to any other birds of unknown health status.
- All workwear and equipment within the farm is regularly cleansed and disinfected.
- All transport equipment (e.g., crates) and vehicles including wheels and arches is cleansed and disinfected after every use.
- All feed, water and bedding is kept clean and fresh, and protected from access by wild birds or vermin.
- All gamekeepers should be familiar with, and follow, the advice published on the Game Farmers Association website.
- Disinfectants should be chosen from the approved list, which guarantees they are effective, and used at the right dilution under the 'general orders' (column V in the list)
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 set out the minimum legal requirements for cleansing and disinfection of means of transport.

Bute House Agreement implications

14. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

15. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the infected premises to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

16. This further case of HPAI H5N1 in a pheasant premises is likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

17. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials continue to be proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on

Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

18. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

17 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Immediate - Lifting of Disease Control Zones in Dumfries and Galloway - Wed 20/09/2023 15:47

Minister for Energy and the Environment

- **LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND FIRST PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY; AND**
- **LIFTING OF BOTH PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND SECOND PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the second infected premises Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, revoking the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and so the Declarations can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background and Latest Position:

First Premises:

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 14 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 14 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 19 September 2023 will be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Second Premises:

On 17 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a second premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 17 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 17 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 17 August 2023 would then be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Communications:

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copies back, ending the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and ending both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Attached:

- **DECLARATION OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE FIRST PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**
- **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE SECOND PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - Immediate - Lifting of Disease Control Zones in Dumfries and Galloway - Wed 20/09/2023 15:47

Minister for Energy and the Environment

- **LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND FIRST PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY; AND**
- **LIFTING OF BOTH PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND SECOND PREMISES NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both

the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the second infected premises Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, revoking the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and so the Declarations can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background and Latest Position:

First Premises:

On 14 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 14 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 14 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 14 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 19 September 2023 will be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Second Premises:

On 17 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a second premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“The Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 17 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 20 September 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 17 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 17 August 2023 would then be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Communications:

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the **two** attached Declarations **today, Wednesday 20 September 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copies back, ending the 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the first premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway, and ending both the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km

Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the second infected premises near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.

Attached:

- **DECLARATION OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE FIRST PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**
- **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND THE SECOND PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

RE: IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN THREE COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, TWO NEAR FRASERBURGH, ABERDEENSHIRE AND ONE NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - Thu 17/08/2023 15:44

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Please see the attached submission. In brief:

Priority and purpose

34. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a game farm premise near Forfar, Angus.

35. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations

36. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a premise near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- **print, sign and date the attached declarations** as soon as possible today (**17 August 2023**), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. **The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.**

- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
17 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL PHEASANT PREMISES, NEAR KIRKCUDBRIGHT, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AND A FURTHER CASE SUSPECTED NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway and a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a game farm premise near Forfar, Angus.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Note a further case of notifiable avian disease is suspected at a premise near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (17 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 13.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission of 16 August, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a commercial pheasant premises, near Kirkcudbright, Dumfries and Galloway has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

Fifth report case (Case Ref: DPR 2023/116)

5. DPR 2023/116 is game farm which supplied the pheasants to the 5 confirmed infected premises(IPs) near Portsoy, Fraserburgh, and Kirkcudbright. APHA officials conducted further investigations at the premises yesterday but there were no clinical

signs of disease. Plans were already in place to take samples from birds on the premise today as it has been linked to the 5 IPs. However the owner of the premises reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a group of 8000 pheasants. Four birds were found dead this morning and some other birds are displaying lethargy and neurological signs. The other pheasants(5000) and partridges (12,000) on the premises appear to be in good health.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. On 16 August due to delays to culling and to avoid any delays in the implementation of robust disease control measures deputy CVO (redacted text) decided to implement a temporary control zone mirroring the surveillance zone controls you would expect to see if HPAI were confirmed. This put controls on poultry, poultry products, vehicles and other material that is liable to spread disease. Such temporary declaratory orders do not need a minister's signature and therefore the declaration was signed by DCVO and came into effect at 4:15pm that day.

7. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Kirkcudbright, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 17 August 2023 and revoke the temporary control zone declaration of 16 August. All birds have been humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease.

Further suspect case DPR 2023/116

8. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector visited the site near Forfar, Angus today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon, 18 August, at the very earliest.

Epidemiological investigations

9. A full epidemiological investigation remains ongoing and APHA have taken swift action to investigate the source and spread of disease. Although all premises are linked by the same supplier it is not conclusive that the supplier is this source of infection. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from the source premises. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the five confirmed sites. APHA have visited the premises yesterday and confirmed that the birds appear healthy, the premises remains under restriction.

Communications

10. APHA have notified the owners of the infected premises, near Kirkcudbright.

11. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this further case DPR 2023/116 near Forfar, Angus are known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

12. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

13. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a further case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at a second premises near Kirkcudbright. This is the 31st case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises we are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Biosecurity

HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.

Gamekeepers are responsible for protecting their flock and biosecurity is the most important risk mitigating factor under the gamekeeper's control. To minimise the risk of HPAI, it is essential they ensure:

- Gamebirds when in captivity are not exposed to any other birds of unknown health status.
- All workwear and equipment within the farm is regularly cleansed and disinfected.
- All transport equipment (e.g., crates) and vehicles including wheels and arches is cleansed and disinfected after every use.
- All feed, water and bedding is kept clean and fresh, and protected from access by wild birds or vermin.
- All gamekeepers should be familiar with, and follow, the advice published on the Game Farmers Association website.
- Disinfectants should be chosen from the approved list, which guarantees they are effective, and used at the right dilution under the 'general orders' (column V in the list)
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 set out the minimum legal requirements for cleansing and disinfection of means of transport.

Bute House Agreement implications

14. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

15. Due to the level of birds that have already succumbed to disease or already appear to be diseased officials do not expect the compensation costs for birds culled on the infected premises to be that high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

16. This further case of HPAI H5N1 in a pheasant premises is likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

17. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials continue to be proactive in engaging with Police Scotland. Police Scotland have advised that there were protestors at Dundee Airport on Saturday 12 of August protesting private flights that were bringing people in to shoot game as part of the glorious 12th and start of the grouse shooting season.

Quality Assurance

18. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

17 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

IMMEDIATE - AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL GAMEBIRD PREMISES, NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS - 18 August 2023 - Fri 18/08/2023 17:12

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL GAMEBIRD PREMISES, NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Please see the attached submission, in brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial gamebird farm, near Forfar, Angus.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial gamebird farm, near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (18 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The

date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.

- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

18 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL GAMEBIRD PREMISES, NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial gamebird farm, near Forfar, Angus.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial gamebird farm, near Forfar, Angus.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (18 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

Context and issues

4. Further to my submission of 17 August, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a commercial gamebird premises, near Forfar, Angus has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text). This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory I Weybridge.

5. This new infected premises is the site that has supplied birds to all five recently infected game bird premises in Scotland (three in Aberdeenshire and two in Dumfries and Galloway). It is a commercial game bird farm with 13,000 pheasants and 12,000 partridges. Yesterday the keeper reported to APHA that 3 pheasants out of a group of 8000 had died and some others appeared lethargic. When an APHA vet investigated they confirmed 4 pheasants had died and others in the group were lethargic and showing neurological symptoms. All other pheasants and partridge on the site appeared healthy.

Situation update

Confirmed cases of HPAI H5N1

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Forfar, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement at least a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and at least 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 18 August 2023. All birds have been humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease.

Epidemiological investigations

7. A full epidemiological investigation remains ongoing and APHA have taken swift action to investigate the source and spread of disease. Confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at this premises does not mean it is conclusive that this supplier is the source of infection. There are several other hypotheses being investigated as part of that veterinary investigation. One line of investigation is that the site received ducks from England on 28 July and these were reboxed and sent to 8 premises on 29 July. All five of our gamebird infected premises received these ducks. So far the investigation has identified a further 6 premises (all in Scotland) that have received birds from this new infected premises. Only one of these premises has received birds after the date in which birds arrived at the previous five confirmed sites. APHA have visited the premises yesterday and confirmed that the birds appear healthy, the premises remains under restriction.

Communications

8. APHA have notified the owners of the infected premises, near Forfar, Angus. Officials will aim continue to provide you with continued updates on the ongoing investigation into the source and spread of disease covering the implications.

9. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zone.

10. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a further case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have been confirmed at a second premises near Forfar, Angus. This is the 32nd case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions

within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Game bird specific reactive lines

- A risk assessment by APHA was published on 15 December 2022 concluding that the release of large numbers of captive pheasants during July and August 2022 resulted in a very high likelihood of infecting one or more wild birds in the vicinity of release sites in many types of habitat.
- Stakeholder meetings have taken place to explain the assessment's findings and potential mitigations.
- In light of recent outbreaks of HPAI at gamebird premises we are examining the conclusions in detail, given the serious impact of HPAI on wild birds. We are monitoring risk levels and considering carefully our response.
- The release of game birds is prohibited within avian influenza protection and surveillance zones and where Special Protected Area and Special Areas of Conservation are designated for vulnerable species, consent is required for release.
- Where Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of pheasants.

Biosecurity

HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.

Gamekeepers are responsible for protecting their flock and biosecurity is the most important risk mitigating factor under the gamekeeper's control. To minimise the risk of HPAI, it is essential they ensure:

- Gamebirds when in captivity are not exposed to any other birds of unknown health status.
- All workwear and equipment within the farm is regularly cleansed and disinfected.
- All transport equipment (e.g., crates) and vehicles including wheels and arches is cleansed and disinfected after every use.
- All feed, water and bedding is kept clean and fresh, and protected from access by wild birds or vermin.
- All gamekeepers should be familiar with, and follow, the advice published on the Game Farmers Association website.
- Disinfectants should be chosen from the approved list, which guarantees they are effective, and used at the right dilution under the 'general orders' (column V in the list)
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 set out the minimum legal requirements for cleansing and disinfection of means of transport.

Bute House Agreement implications

11. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

12. This site has had considerably more birds on the premises compared to the previously confirmed gamebird sites so compensation for birds culled is expected to be higher but not unusually high. Officials will keep Ministers informed of the situation.

Sensitivities

13. This further case of HPAI H5N1 in a pheasant premises is likely to give rise to criticism from the RSPB who have been very vocal in expressing their concerns about the impact of game bird releases on native wild bird populations. They have been calling for a ban in the release of game birds.

14. When declarations are published on the web they include the address of the infected premise. Due to the potential for animal rights groups to interfere at the infected premises officials continue to be proactive in engaging with Police Scotland.

Quality Assurance

15. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

18 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Lifting of Protection and Surveillance Zone around Premises near Forfar, Angus - 25-09-2023 - Mon 25/09/2023 16:19

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

LIFTING OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE AROUND PREMISES NEAR FORFAR, ANGUS.

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Protection Zone (PZ) and Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the infected premises near Forfar, Angus.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Monday 25 September 2023**, revoking the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) in place around the infected premises near Forfar, Angus.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ area near Forfar, Angus and so the Declaration can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

On 18 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 at a premises near Forfar, Angus. Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 ("The Order"), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 18 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

Latest position:

On 25 September 2023, at least 21 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises, in the Protection Zone declared, of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of Schedule 3 of the Order; and a veterinary inquiry has been completed at all premises identified as containing poultry or other captive birds within the Protection Zone.

At least 30 days have elapsed since the completion at all infected premises within the Zones declared of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order.

The Scottish Ministers can now declare, under article 34(1) and (3) of the Order, the end of the Protection Zone described in Annex 2 and the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 3 to the Declaration of 18 August 2023.

The Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 18 August 2023 would then be revoked.

APHA have confirmed that there are no further report cases within the PZ and SZ areas around this premises.

Communications:

The existing published Declaration on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declaration, once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of this change.

Bute House Agreement implications

N/A

Financial and legal considerations

N/A

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Recommendation:

Officials request that you:

- print, sign and date the attached Declaration **today, Monday 25 September 2023**, and send a scanned PDF copy back, ending the 3 km avian influenza Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone currently in place around the infected premises near Forfar, Angus.

Attached: **DECLARATION OF END OF PROTECTION ZONE AND SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
20 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A SMALL COMMERCIAL POULTRY FLOCK IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a small commercial poultry flock in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD at a small commercial poultry flock in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. On 20 August the owner of the poultry premises of 213 laying hens and 20 ducks reports suspicion of notifiable disease. Deaths started in the hens on 19 August (4) with a further 2 overnight. Increasing numbers of hens showing clinical signs of coughing, ruffled feathers, reduced feed intakes, and lethargy. There are no recent management changes or introduction of new birds. The ducks are currently clinically normal however a reduced egg production has been reported. The premises is just outside an existing Avian Influenza Surveillance Zone (an infected premises near Stornoway, case ref: AIV 2023/38)

What is being done?

5. An APHA veterinary inspector visited the premises this afternoon and reported that the birds are run together as single epidemiological group. A quarter of the hens are now showing clinical signs and there have been another three deaths. Biosecurity is reportedly poor with access to outside range and wild birds. The veterinary inspector was unable to negate the presence of a notifiable disease. Samples have been taken are expected to reach the mainland tomorrow afternoon.

6. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at the national reference laboratory near Weybridge. Test results are expected Tuesday afternoon, 22 August, at the very earliest.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case is known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a small commercial poultry flock in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. N/A

Sensitivities

11. N/A

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

20 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) - SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A SMALL COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES, IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS - Tue 22/08/2023 16:29

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A SMALL COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES, IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Please see the attached submission, in brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a small commercial poultry premises, in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a small commercial poultry premises, in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- Print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (22 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 9.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
 ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
 22 August 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED AT A SMALL COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a small commercial poultry premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a small commercial poultry premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing to determine the source of disease and tracing actions required to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declaration as soon as possible today (22 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- agree the suggested reactive lines in para 9.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague, (redacted text), submission of 20 August, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a small commercial poultry premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis, has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas. This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory in Weybridge.

5. On 20 August, the owner of the poultry premises of 213 laying hens and 20 ducks reported suspicion of NAD. Deaths started in the hens on 19 August (4) with a further two that night. Increasing numbers of hens continued showing clinical signs, including coughing, ruffled feathers, reduced feed intakes, and lethargy. An APHA Veterinary Inspector visited the premises on 20 August and was unable to negate the presence of a NAD. Samples were taken.

Situation update

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises in Lower Barvas, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an at least 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an at least 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the IP in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 22 August 2023. All birds have been humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. A full epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

Communications

7. APHA have notified the owners of the infected premises in Lower Barvas. Officials will provide you with continued updates on the ongoing investigation into the source and spread of disease covering the implications.

8. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zones.

9. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a second premises on the Isle of Lewis. This is the 33rd case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
 - HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.
 - More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

10. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

11. No particular implication.

Sensitivities

12. No particular sensitivities.

Quality Assurance

13. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

22 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Immediate Submission: LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES AROUND THREE PREMISES ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS - Mon 23/10/2023 10:30

Minister for Energy and the Environment

LIFTING OF SURVEILLANCE ZONES AROUND PREMISES IN LOWER BARVAS, NESS, AND A SECOND PREMISES IN LOWER BARVAS, ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS

Please see the following note about the proposed lifting of the Surveillance Zones (SZs) around three infected premises in Lower Barvas, Ness, and the second premises in Lower Barvas, all situated on the Isle of Lewis.

Priority and purpose:

To request that you sign and date the **three** attached Declarations **today, Monday 23 October 2023**, revoking the 10 km Surveillance Zones (SZs) in place around the three infected premises: in Lower Barvas; Ness; and the second premises in Lower Barvas, all situated on the Isle of Lewis.

APHA have confirmed there are no further report cases within the SZs around these premises on the Isle of Lewis and so the three Declarations can be signed immediately.

Timing: IMMEDIATE

Background:

Premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

On 22 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) were declared around the premises with effect from 22 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 21 October 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 22 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 22 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 13 October 2023 will be revoked.

Premises in Ness, Isle of Lewis

On 25 August 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of HPAI H5N1 at a separate premises in Ness, Isle of Lewis.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km PZ and 10 km SZ were declared around the premises with effect from 25 August 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 29 September 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 25 August 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 25 August 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 4 October 2023 will be revoked.

Second premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

On 15 September 2023, Scottish Ministers confirmed the presence of HPAI H5N1 at a second premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

Under article 26(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 (“the Order”), a 3 km PZ and 10 km SZ were declared around the premises with effect from 15 September 2023. To prevent any further spread of disease, movement restrictions on, for example, poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure were introduced within the zones.

On 21 October 2023, at least **30 days** have elapsed since the completion of the preliminary cleansing and disinfection measures referred to in Part 2 of schedule 3 of the Order, at all infected premises within the zones declared, and Scottish Ministers can declare, under article 34(3) of the Order, the end of the Surveillance Zone described in Annex 2 to the Declaration of 15 September 2023.

By doing so, the Declaration of Infected Premises, Protection Zone and Surveillance Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 15 September 2023 and the Declaration of End of Protection Zone made by Scottish Ministers on 13 October 2023 will be revoked.

Communications

The existing published Declarations on gov.scot will be replaced with the attached Declarations once signed by you, and relevant stakeholders will be informed of these changes.

Bute House Agreement implications

The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into avian influenza submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

None to report.

Sensitivities

None to report.

Quality Assurance

This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Attached: **THREE DECLARATIONS OF END OF SURVEILLANCE ZONE**

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A SMALLHOLDING ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS - Thu 24/08/2023 12:43

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A SMALLHOLDING ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.
2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:
 - suspicion of NAD within a small, commercial, free-range, poultry flock at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.
 - the reactive lines in para 8.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
24 August 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A SMALLHOLDING ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.
2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:
 - suspicion of NAD within a small, commercial, free-range, poultry flock at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.
 - the reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. A private veterinary surgeon reported suspicion of NAD in a small, free-range, commercial flock of chickens on behalf of the keeper on 23 August. The keeper was then contacted by APHA and reported 180 birds on the premises, of which two birds died on 21 August. Another ten birds died on 23 August, and six birds are reported as being lethargic. The birds were free-range with possible contact with wild birds. The birds have now been housed. There are cattle, sheep and pigs on the premises. The premises is approximately 17 km north of the infected premises at Lower Barvas.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow, 25 August, at the very earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Ness, Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
- you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
24 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

**AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - HPAI H5N1
CONFIRMED AT A SMALLHOLDING ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS.- Fri 25/08/2023
17:07**

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED AT A SMALLHOLDING ON THE ISLE OF LEWIS.

Please see the attached submission, in brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a small, commercial, free-range, poultry flock at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.

- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- Print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (25 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 9.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)
 ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
 25 August 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED AT A SMALLHOLDING IN NESS, ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed in a small, commercial, free-range, poultry flock at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis.
- note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing to determine the source of disease and any tracing actions required to prevent further spread of disease.
- print, sign and date the attached declaration as soon as possible today (25 August 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- agree the suggested reactive lines in para 9.

Context and issues

4. Further to my submission of 24 August, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small, commercial, free-range, poultry flock at a smallholding in Ness on the Isle of Lewis has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas. This follows results obtained by APHA's National Reference Laboratory, Weybridge.

5. A private veterinary surgeon reported suspicion of NAD in a small, free-range, commercial flock of chickens on behalf of the keeper on 23 August. The keeper was then contacted by APHA and reported 180 birds on the premises, of which two birds

died on 21 August. Another ten birds died on 23 August, and six birds were reported as being lethargic. The birds were free-range with possible contact with wild birds. The birds have now been housed. There are cattle, sheep and pigs on the premises. The premises is approximately 17 km north of the infected premises at Lower Barvas.

Situation update

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises in Ness, the Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an at least 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an at least 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the IP in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 25 August 2023. All birds have been humanely euthanised by APHA and preliminary cleansing and disinfection will be undertaken to prevent the spread of disease. A full epidemiological investigation is ongoing.

Communications

7. APHA have notified the owners of the infected premises in Ness. Officials will provide you with continued updates on the ongoing investigation into the source and spread of disease covering the implications.

8. Communications colleagues are aware of these recent developments and the evolving epidemiological investigation. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection or Surveillance Zones.

9. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a third premises on the Isle of Lewis. This is the 34th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
 - HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk to them is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.
 - More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

10. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

11. No particular implication.

Sensitivities

12. The owner of the this premises is a councillor and has quite a high profile locally. He also, we believe, has had a camera crew on site from the BBC for a couple of days making a documentary about him and his croft, according to local APHA staff. APHA have refused permission to be filmed undertaking the investigation or carrying out any sampling or post mortem activities. SG comms colleagues are aware.

Quality Assurance

13. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

25 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK NEAR PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE - 09 SEPTEMBER 2023 - Sat 09/09/2023 14:37

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK NEAR PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a commercial flock of 221,000 chickens near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a commercial flock of 221,000 chickens near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- The reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. A private vet reported suspicion of NAD to APHA yesterday (08 September) at a 221,000 chicken layer rearer premises. The birds ages vary from shed to shed (from chicks to 12-week old birds). Only one of the seven populated sheds is affected (23,500 birds). In the affected shed, birds are 12-weeks old and there has been an increase in mortality (100 dead on 06/09; 50 dead on 07/09; 350 dead on 08/09; and 250 dead overnight into 09/09). Approximately 10% of the remaining birds are lethargic and displaying neurological signs. The birds in the other six sheds are currently unaffected.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow afternoon/evening (10 September) at the earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a commercial premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

IMMEDIATE: AVIAN INFLUENZA – HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES NEAR PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE - Sun 10/09/2023 15:44

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN A COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES, NEAR PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE

Please see the attached submission, in brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial poultry premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you:

- Note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a commercial gamebird farm, near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- Note epidemiological investigations remain ongoing the source of disease and tracing actions to prevent the further spread.
- print, sign and date the attached declarations as soon as possible today (10 September 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

10 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES NEAR PETERHEAD, ABERDEENSHIRE

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.
- print, sign and date the attached Declaration as soon as possible today (10 September 2023), declaring this premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around the infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copy returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect case of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire has

been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by Deputy CVO Scotland, (redacted text).

Case details – Peterhead, Aberdeenshire

5. A private vet reported suspicion of NAD to APHA on 08 September at a 221,000 chicken layer rearer premises. The birds ages vary from shed to shed (from chicks to 12-week old birds). Only one of the seven populated sheds is affected (23,500 birds). In the affected shed, birds are 12-weeks old and there was an increase in mortality (100 dead on 06/09; 50 dead on 07/09; 350 dead on 08/09; and 250 dead overnight into 09/09). An APHA veterinary investigation was undertaken yesterday (09 September) and NAD could not be ruled out, and samples were taken and sent to APHA Weybridge for testing. A further 750 birds were reported to have died following the APHA veterinary inspection today.

What is being done?

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire, the Scottish Ministers must declare this premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around the case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which it is signed on 10 September 2023.

Communications

7. APHA have notified the owner of the IP near Peterhead of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

8. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of the new IP and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

9. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone.

10. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises near Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. This is the 35th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around the infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food

Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

11. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

12. Due to the size of the premises compensation is expected to be considerable between £1 million and £2 million dependent on the rate card applied and the number of birds eligible for compensation.

Sensitivities

13. None

Quality Assurance

14. This submission has been approved by (redacted text), Deputy CVO Scotland.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

10 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS - Wed 13/09/2023 19:22

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small back yard flock of 8 chickens near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
2. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small commercial flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

4. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small back yard flock of 8 chickens near Tingwall, Shetland Islands;
- suspicion of NAD within a small commercial flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis; and
- the reactive lines in para 9.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

13 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within:
 - a small backyard flock of eight chickens at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
 - a small commercial poultry flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a backyard flock of eight chickens at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 9.

Premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands

4. On 12 September, suspicion of NAD was reported in a backyard flock of 8 chickens. On Sunday 10 September, one bird was found dead with no previous clinical signs. On the morning of 12 September, the owner found another two dead birds, and another bird has died since then.

Premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

5. An APHA vet reported the suspicion of NAD in a backyard flock while carrying out a surveillance visit. This premises is within the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) of a current HPAI H5N1 confirmed case in Lower Barvas. One of 18 chickens died suddenly on 11 September. Another chicken was found to be unwell with blue, swollen combs and nasal discharge. The field vet humanely euthanised that chicken.

What is being done?

6. In both cases, restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspectors visited both sites today, and they could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken for both premises and are on their way to the national reference laboratory, Weybridge. Both premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. For the samples from the Shetland Islands suspect case, test results are expected later tomorrow, 14 September. We hope to receive test results for the Isle of Lewis suspect case on 15 September.

7. Should the results for either case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

8. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for each case has arrived, covering the implications of ongoing investigations, with recommendations for your consideration.

9. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into two possible cases of notifiable avian disease. One at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and one at premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place at both premises while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck

o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls) you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

10. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

12. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

13. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
13 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES - Shetland Islands and Isle of Lewis - 15 September 2023 - Fri 15/09/2023 16:42

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Grateful if you would consider attached submission by my colleague, Annabel Henderson, and sign the two declarations. In summary:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES:

- NEAR TINGWALL, SHETLAND ISLANDS; AND
- IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises:

- near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
- in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (15 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 11.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

15 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES:

- NEAR TINGWALL, SHETLAND ISLANDS; AND
- IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises:

- near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
- in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (15 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3

km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.

- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 11.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text) submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis, have both been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Case details – near Tingwall, Shetland Islands

5. On 12 September, suspicion of NAD was reported in a backyard flock of 8 chickens. On Sunday 10 September, one bird was found dead with no previous clinical signs. On the morning of 12 September, the owner found another two dead birds, and another bird died since then.

Case details – in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

6. An APHA vet reported the suspicion of NAD in a backyard flock while carrying out a surveillance visit. This premises is within the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) of a current HPAI H5N1 confirmed case in Lower Barvas. One of 18 chickens died suddenly on 11 September. Another chicken was found to be unwell with blue, swollen combs and nasal discharge. The field vet humanely euthanised that chicken.

What is being done?

7. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and at the premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis, the Scottish Ministers must declare these two premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. These two Declarations will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 15 September 2023.

Communications

8. APHA have notified the owners of the IPs near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

9. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of the new IPs and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

10. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone.

11. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis. These are the 36th and 37th cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around each infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

12. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

13. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

14. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

15. This submission has been approved by Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

15 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS - Wed 13/09/2023 19:22

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small back yard flock of 8 chickens near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
2. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small commercial flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

3. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

4. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small back yard flock of 8 chickens near Tingwall, Shetland Islands;
- suspicion of NAD within a small commercial flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis; and
- the reactive lines in para 9.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

13 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT TWO SCOTTISH LOCATIONS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within:
 - a small backyard flock of eight chickens at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
 - a small commercial poultry flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a backyard flock of eight chickens at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of 18 chickens in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 9.

Premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands

4. On 12 September, suspicion of NAD was reported in a backyard flock of 8 chickens. On Sunday 10 September, one bird was found dead with no previous clinical signs. On the morning of 12 September, the owner found another two dead birds, and another bird has died since then.

Premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

5. An APHA vet reported the suspicion of NAD in a backyard flock while carrying out a surveillance visit. This premises is within the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) of a current HPAI H5N1 confirmed case in Lower Barvas. One of 18 chickens died suddenly on 11 September. Another chicken was found to be unwell with blue, swollen combs and nasal discharge. The field vet humanely euthanised that chicken.

What is being done?

6. In both cases, restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspectors visited both sites today, and they could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken for both premises and are on their way to the national reference laboratory, Weybridge. Both premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. For the samples from the Shetland Islands suspect case, test results are expected later tomorrow, 14 September. We hope to receive test results for the Isle of Lewis suspect case on 15 September.

7. Should the results for either case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

8. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for each case has arrived, covering the implications of ongoing investigations, with recommendations for your consideration.

9. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into two possible cases of notifiable avian disease. One at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and one at premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place at both premises while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

10. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

12. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

13. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

13 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES - Shetland Islands and Isle of Lewis - 15 September 2023 - Fri 15/09/2023 16:42

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

Grateful if you would consider attached submission by my colleague, Annabel Henderson, and sign the two declarations. In summary:

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES:

- NEAR TINGWALL, SHETLAND ISLANDS; AND
- IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises:

- near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
- in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (15 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 11.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

15 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN TWO BACKYARD POULTRY PREMISES:

- NEAR TINGWALL, SHETLAND ISLANDS; AND
- IN LOWER BARVAS, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at two premises:

- near Tingwall, Shetland Islands; and
- in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands.
- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the two attached Declarations as soon as possible today (15 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 11.

Context and issues

4. Further to my colleague (redacted text)'s submission yesterday, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis, have both been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Case details – near Tingwall, Shetland Islands

5. On 12 September, suspicion of NAD was reported in a backyard flock of 8 chickens. On Sunday 10 September, one bird was found dead with no previous clinical signs. On the morning of 12 September, the owner found another two dead birds, and another bird died since then.

Case details – in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis

6. An APHA vet reported the suspicion of NAD in a backyard flock while carrying out a surveillance visit. This premises is within the 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) of a current HPAI H5N1 confirmed case in Lower Barvas. One of 18 chickens died suddenly on 11 September. Another chicken was found to be unwell with blue, swollen combs and nasal discharge. The field vet humanely euthanised that chicken.

What is being done?

7. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and at the premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis, the Scottish Ministers must declare these two premises as infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. These two Declarations will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 15 September 2023.

Communications

8. APHA have notified the owners of the IPs near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

9. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of the new IPs and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

10. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone.

11. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm two cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at a premises near Tingwall, Shetland Islands, and at a premises in Lower Barvas, Isle of Lewis. These are the 36th and 37th cases of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around each infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

12. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

13. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

14. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

15. This submission has been approved by Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

15 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A PREMISES IN SHESHADER, ISLE OF LEWIS.- Mon 25/09/2023 18:11

SHORT SUBMISSION

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A PREMISES IN SHESHADER, ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small poultry flock of ten chickens and four geese at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of ten chickens and four geese in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 8.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

25 September 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A PREMISES IN SHESHADER, ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small poultry flock of ten chickens and four geese at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of 10 chickens and four geese in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 8.

Details of Suspect Case

4. The owner reported suspicion of NAD in a poultry flock of 10 chickens and four geese. Out of the 10 chickens on site, three are very depressed and hunched up and one died this afternoon. Post-mortem examination revealed widespread congestion in the carcass. There are also four geese kept in a paddock and they are clinically well.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and will be transported to national reference laboratory, Weybridge tomorrow, 26 September. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. We expect to receive test results on 27 September.

6. Should the results for this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of the ongoing investigation, with recommendations for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible case of notifiable avian disease at premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place at both premises while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.

- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.
- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not just diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
25 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

Avian Influenza (AI - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) Confirmed at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.- Wed 27/09/2023 15:52

SHORT SUBMISSION

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN SMALL POULTRY PREMISES IN SHESHADER, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the attached Declaration as soon as possible today (27 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

FULL SUBMISSION

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

27 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – HPAI H5N1 CONFIRMED IN SMALL POULTRY PREMISES IN SHESHADER, ISLE OF LEWIS

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendation

3. That you:

- note that HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at a premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis.
- print, sign and date the attached Declaration as soon as possible today (27 September 2023), declaring these premises as infected and putting in place a 3 km Protection Zone and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each infected premises. The date and time of signing should then be provided (via PDF if possible), with the hard copies returned subsequently.
- agree to the suggested reactive lines in para 10.

Context and issues

4. Further to my submission of 25 September, the suspect cases of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis, has been confirmed as HPAI H5N1 this afternoon by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Case details

5. The owner reported suspicion of NAD in a poultry flock of 10 chickens and four geese on 25 September 2023. Out of the 10 chickens on site, three were very depressed and hunched up and one died that day. Post-mortem examination revealed widespread congestion in the carcass. There were also four geese kept in a paddock and they are clinically well. This is the sixth case of HPAI H5N1 on the Isle of Lewis in the current outbreak period (since October 2022).

What is being done?

6. As a result of confirmation of HPAI H5N1 at the premises, Scottish Ministers must declare these premises as an infected premises (IP), and implement an, at least, 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and an, at least, 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) around each case in accordance with articles 19 and 26 of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006. We do not consider that zones larger than 3 km and 10 km are necessary to reduce the risk of spread of disease. This Declaration will take effect at the time upon which they are signed on 27 September 2023.

Communications

7. APHA have notified the owner of the IP at Sheshader, Isle of Lewis of positive confirmation of disease (HPAI H5N1).

8. Communications colleagues are aware of this recent development in terms of the new IP and website updates will be published today. Comms colleagues will proactively highlight this case on social media.

9. Local authority updates and stakeholder emails (including to the GB Avian Diseases Core Group) will be issued, and mass messages will be issued by APHA should any keeper be identified within the Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone.

10. In the meantime, the following reactive lines are recommended:

- The Scottish Government can confirm a case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 at premises in Sheshader, Isle of Lewis. This is the 38th case of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland within the 2022-23 HPAI outbreak season.
- A 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone have been placed around each infected premises, meaning the application of movement restrictions within these zones, such as poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB phone helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.
- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not just diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

11. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

12. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

13. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

14. This submission has been approved by Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

27 September 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission]

SUBMISSIONS FOR NEGATIVE AI CASES

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
03 August 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A COMMERCIAL FLOCK NEAR FORRES, MORAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a commercial flock of 40,000 birds near Forres, Moray.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a commercial flock of 40,000 chickens near Forres, Moray.
- The reactive lines in para 11.

Context and issues

4. This premises was investigated previously (as DPR 2023/99) and at that time the clinical picture was not consistent with NAD and the case was negated on clinical grounds by APHA. The clinical picture improved, but there has now been a sudden onset of mortality overnight and the owner is subsequently reporting suspicion of NAD once again.

5. There are two houses in use at this holding, although they are separated by a distance of 1.5 km. One of the houses currently holds 9,100 layers (34 weeks old) and the second house holds 30,900 pullets (76 days old).

6. Clinical symptoms have only been observed within the pullet flock (30,900 birds). At the investigation today, the birds were not showing any clinical signs. However, due to the sudden mortality overnight and the absence of an alternative diagnosis, the APHA vet cannot rule out NAD at this stage and sampling has been conducted.

7. There are no clinical symptoms currently reported in the second house with 9,100 layers, and APHA has not conducted a clinical examination of these birds. There is a suggestion that this house could be epidemiologically separate from the pullet flock, but further epidemiological information would be required to make a decision if positive results are received.

What is being done?

8. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary inspector

visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow afternoon/evening (04 August) at the earliest.

9. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

10. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

11. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a commercial premises near Forres, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

12. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

13. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

14. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

15. This submission has been approved by Veterinary Adviser, (redacted text) (on behalf of Deputy CVO, (redacted text)).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

03 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission document]

04 August 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE NEAR FORRES, MORAY

Priority and purpose

1. To provide an update on test results regarding suspect notifiable avian disease (NAD) near Forres, Moray.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend that you note:

- initial test results for the suspect case of NAD at a premises near Forres, Moray have proved negative.
- restrictions will remain on the premises until NAD has been fully negated.
- the reactive lines in para 7.

Case details

4. Further to my submission yesterday, official results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing carried out on samples from the suspect case have proved negative for avian influenza A virus.

5. Samples from the case will now undergo virus isolation testing to fully negate avian influenza, and final test results are expected in around 6 days.

What is being done?

6. The premises will remain under restrictions until full results are known, and APHA will continue to communicate with the keeper.

Communications

7. Current reactive lines, agreed with SG Communications colleagues, remain unchanged:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises near Forres, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results. Vigilance by livestock keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)they should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool.
- Alternatively, they can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If they wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. They must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

8. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

9. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

11. This submission has been approved by Deputy CVO, (redacted text).

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

04 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission document]

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
26 August 2023

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD FLOCK IN BURNTISLAND, FIFE

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a small backyard flock of hens in Burntisland, Fife.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD at a backyard flock of hens in Burntisland, Fife.
- Agree the suggested reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. On 26 August the owner of the backyard flock of 25-30 hens reported suspicion of notifiable disease. The hens showed no symptoms yesterday (25 August), however today a significant number have been lethargic, very quiet, with some showing torticollis and difficulty breathing. APHA have visited the site, and have reported that one cockerel was euthanised today, as it presented with cyanotic comb and wattle, congested carcass and lungs, with also traces of green diarrhoea. Five birds are lethargic, and some have very raspy breathing. The premises is by a lake and there is potential exposure to wild birds.

What is being done?

5. An APHA veterinary inspector visited the premises this afternoon. The veterinary inspector was unable to negate the presence of a notifiable disease. Samples are being taken as soon as possible for further investigation.

6. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at the national reference laboratory near Weybridge.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case is known, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a backyard flock in Burntisland, Fife. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. N/A

Sensitivities

11. N/A

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

26 August 2023

Copy List [same as previous submission document]

From: (redacted text) <[\(redacted text\)@gov.scot](mailto:(redacted text)@gov.scot)>

Sent: Sunday, August 27, 2023 2:50 PM

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE - SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD FLOCK IN BURNTISLAND, FIFE

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD FLOCK IN BURNTISLAND, FIFE

Please see the attached submission, in brief:

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a small backyard flock of hens in Burntisland, Fife.

2. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

A veterinary investigation is now underway into the suspicion of NAD at a backyard flock of hens in Burntisland, Fife.

Kind regards,
(redacted text)

From: (redacted text)
ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division
05 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT SMALL COMMERCIAL POULTRY PREMISES IN ELGIN, MORAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) at a small, commercial poultry premises in Elgin, Moray.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD amongst a flock of 110 ducks and six quail at a small, commercial poultry premises in Elgin, Moray.
- the reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. Ducks at this premises were sampled on 31 August 2023 as part of the GB Avian Influenza Poultry Survey (passive surveillance) and non-negative highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5 serology results for avian influenza were obtained. All birds are currently healthy and are laying well.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so further samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Test results are expected tomorrow, 06 August 2023, at the earliest.

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for HPAI, then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials will aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Elgin, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- In Great Britain, if you find at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

05 September 2023

Copy List [same as previously]

From: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:44 PM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: [copy list same as previously]

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS - IMMEDIATE -
NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE
IN MORAY

Minister for Energy and the Environment

**AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN MORAY**

Purpose

1. To provide an update on test results regarding suspect notifiable avian disease in Elgin, Moray.

2. Timing: **IMMEDIATE**

Case Details

3. Further to my submission of 05 September 2023, official results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing carried out on samples from the suspect case have proved **negative for avian influenza A virus**.

4. Samples from the case will now undergo virus isolation testing to fully negate avian influenza, and final test results are expected in around 6 days.

What is Being Done?

5. The premises will remain under restrictions until full results are known, and APHA will continue to communicate with the keeper.

Communications

6. Current reactive lines, agreed with SG Communications colleagues, remain unchanged:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Elgin, Moray. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results. Vigilance by livestock keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - **a single** dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - **five or more** dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to [GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra](#).
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#).
- HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk to them is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Recommendations

7. To recommend that you note:

- initial test results for the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises in Elgin, Moray, have proven negative.
- restrictions will remain on the premises until notifiable avian disease has been fully negated.
- the reactive lines in para 6.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

06 September 2023

From: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>
Sent: Saturday, September 9, 2023 4:18 PM
To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>
Cc: [Copy List as previously]

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN KILMARNOCK, EAST AYRSHIRE - 09 SEPTEMBER 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN KILMARNOCK, EAST AYRSHIRE

Purpose

1. To provide an update on test results regarding suspect notifiable avian disease in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire.
2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Case details

3. Further to (redacted text) submission of 08 September 2023, official results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing carried out on samples from the suspect case have proved negative for avian influenza A virus.
4. Samples from the case will now undergo virus isolation testing to fully negate avian influenza, and final test results are expected in around 6 days.

What is being done?

5. The premises will remain under restrictions until full results are known, and APHA will continue to communicate with the keeper.

Communications

6. Current reactive lines, agreed with SG Communications colleagues, remain unchanged:
 - Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results. Vigilance by livestock keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office.
 - The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or
 - o five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)you should report them to GB Dead Wild Bird Monitoring Scheme operated by Defra.
- Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk to them is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Recommendations

7. To recommend that you note:

- initial test results for the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire have proven negative.
- restrictions will remain on the premises until notifiable avian disease has been fully negated.
- the reactive lines in para 6.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
09 September 2023

(redacted text) | Senior Policy Manager | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: 0300 244 9616 | Ex. 49616 | Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot

I work compressed hours, Tuesday to Friday 07:00 – 16:45

(redacted text)
(redacted text)

From: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, September 8, 2023 9:21 PM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: [copy list as previously]

Subject: IMMEDIATE: AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUBMISSION TO MINISTERS -
SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A PREMISES IN KILMARNOCK

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A SMALL
BACKYARD FLOCK IN KILMARNOCK

Priority and purpose

8. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small
backyard flock in Kilmarnock.

9. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

10. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small backyard flock in Kilmarnock
- the reactive lines in para 8.

Kind regards

(redacted text)

(redacted text), Head of Disease Control branch, Animal Health and Welfare Division
(P Spur)

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, Scottish Government

Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD

Tel +44(0)300 244 (redacted text) Mobile:(redacted text) Email: (redacted
text)@gov.scot

My normal working hours are 9am to 5pm (office based)

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

19 September 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD
FLOCK IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a backyard flock of five
chickens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a backyard flock of five chickens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway.
- The reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. A private vet reported suspicion of NAD to APHA today in small back backyard flock of 5 hens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway. One of the birds started to show respiratory signs and was lethargic on 17 September and died yesterday (18 September). Today, one more hen is lethargic and displays respiratory signs.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow (20 September).

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises.

Communications

7. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a backyard premises near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.
- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not just diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

19 September 2023

Copy List [same as previously]

From: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:26 PM

To: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: [Copy list as previously]

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN WHAUPHILL, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE IN WHAUPHILL, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Purpose

1. To provide an update on test results regarding suspect notifiable avian disease (NAD) in Whauphill, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend that you note:

- initial test results for the suspect case of NAD at a premises in Whauphill, Dumfries and Galloway have proved negative.
- restrictions will remain on the premises until NAD has been fully negated.
- the reactive lines in para 7.

Case Details

4. Further to Annabel Henderson's submission of 19 September 2023, official results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing carried out on samples from the suspect case have proved negative for avian influenza A virus.

5. Samples from the case will now undergo virus isolation testing to fully negate avian influenza, and final test results are expected in around 6 days.

What is Being Done?

6. The premises will remain under restrictions until full results are known, and APHA will continue to communicate with the keeper.

Communications

7. Current reactive lines, agreed with SG Communications colleagues, remain unchanged:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a backyard premises in Whauphill, Dumfries and Galloway. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not only diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

8. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

9. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

11. This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch

20 September 2023

(redacted text) | Senior Policy Officer | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: (redacted text) | Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot Pronouns: She/her (Why have I put this?)

My normal working pattern is Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm working from home.

From: (redacted text)@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 5:56 PM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: [copy list as previously]

Subject: AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD FLOCK IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY - 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE IN A BACKYARD FLOCK IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a backyard flock of five chickens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a backyard flock of five chickens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway.
- The reactive lines in para 8.

Context and issues

4. A private vet reported suspicion of NAD to APHA today in small back backyard flock of 5 hens near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway. One of the birds started to show respiratory signs and was lethargic on 17 September and died yesterday (18 September). Today, one more hen is lethargic and displays respiratory signs.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and are on their way to the national reference laboratory in Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. Initial test results are expected tomorrow (20 September).

6. Should the results in this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises.

Communications

7. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of this ongoing investigation, with a recommendation for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a backyard premises near Portpatrick, Dumfries and Galloway. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose or duck
 - or five or more dead wild birds of any other species (including gulls)
 - you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.
- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office.

You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.

- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.
- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not just diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas.

Kind regards,

(redacted text)

(redacted text) | Senior Policy Manager | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division | Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh | EH11 3XD

Tel: 0300 244 (redacted text) | Ex. 49616 | Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot
I work compressed hours, Tuesday to Friday 07:00 – 16:45

From: (redacted text)

ARE: Animal Health and Welfare Division

29 September 2023

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A PREMISES NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small poultry flock of ten chickens at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of 10 chickens near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 8.

Details of Suspect Case

4. The keeper reported suspicion of notifiable avian disease in a backyard flock of 10 chickens (between 1 - 3 years old) today. One bird has died yesterday and out of the 9 chickens on site, one is very depressed, not coming out of the coop and presenting a cyanotic comb. No changes in the egg production. Birds are housed overnight in two sheds, but have direct contact with wild birds during the day.

What is being done?

5. Restrictions have been placed on the premises in order to minimise the possible spread of disease. An Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Veterinary Inspector visited the site today and could not rule out NAD, so samples have been taken and will be transported to national reference laboratory, Weybridge. The premises will remain under restrictions whilst tests are carried out at Weybridge. We expect to receive test results on 30 September or 01 October (remote location).

6. Should the results for this case prove positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), then a 3 km Protection Zone (PZ) and a 10 km Surveillance Zone (SZ) will be considered for application around the infected premises, unless a derogation can be applied.

Communications

7. Officials aim to provide an immediate submission to you once preliminary results for this case have arrived, covering the implications of the ongoing investigation, with recommendations for your consideration.

8. SG officials have previously agreed suggested standard reactive lines with comms colleagues for your approval below, which will be held for any enquiries in the meantime:

- Investigations are underway into a possible case of notifiable avian disease at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place at the premises while we await final test results.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- In Great Britain, if you find at the same place at the same time:
 - o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull
 - o or five or more dead wild birds of any other species

you should report them on gov.uk's online reporting tool. Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office. You can report suspect cases in Scotland by contacting your local Field Services Office.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.
- For anyone interested in animal diseases, not just diseases of poultry, they may wish to sign up for free text and/or email alerts on national disease outbreaks via APHA's subscription service.

Bute House Agreement implications

9. The Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity is regularly copied into all animal disease submissions.

Financial and legal considerations

10. Nothing of note at this stage.

Sensitivities

11. Nothing of note at this stage.

Quality Assurance

12. This submission has been approved by CVO, Sheila Voas.

(redacted text)

Animal Health and Welfare Division – Disease Control Branch
29 September 2023

Copy List [as previously]

From: (redacted text) <(redacted text)@gov.scot>

Sent: Sunday, October 1, 2023 1:50 PM

To: (redacted text)@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy and the Environment
<MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: [copy list same as previously]

Subject: RE: Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Suspicion of Notifiable Avian Disease at a premises on Isle of Lewis - Preliminary negative results

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – NEGATIVE INITIAL RESULTS FOR SUSPECT CASE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE AT A PREMISES ON ISLE OF LEWIS

Purpose

1. To provide an update on test results regarding suspect notifiable avian disease at a premises on Isle of Lewis

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Case Details

3. Further to (redacted text)'s submission of 29 September 2023, official results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing carried out on samples from the suspect case have proved negative for avian influenza A virus.

4. Samples from the case will now undergo virus isolation testing to fully negate avian influenza, and final test results are expected in around 6 days.

What is Being Done?

5. The premises will remain under restrictions until full results are known, and APHA will continue to communicate with the keeper.

Communications

6. Current reactive lines, agreed with SG Communications colleagues, remain unchanged:

- Investigations are underway into a possible notifiable avian disease case at a premises on Isle of Lewis. Movement restrictions have been put in place while we await final test results. Vigilance by livestock keepers is important and any suspicion of disease should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) office.

- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still "very low", and is considered "low" for people with intensive exposure to infected birds. Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers.

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find at the same place at the same time:

- o a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, gull, duck or
- o five or more dead wild birds of any other species

you should report them to GB dead wild bird monitoring scheme operated by Defra.

- Alternatively, you can phone the GB helpline: 03459 33 55 77. If you wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the telephone helpline should be used. You must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- Vigilance by bird keepers is important and any suspicion of disease in Scotland should be reported immediately to the local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Field Services Office.
- HPAI is present in wild birds across the UK and the risk to them is high. The HPAI virus can be spread through several pathways, including direct contact with infected birds and indirect contact through contaminated equipment, workwear and feed, water or bedding.
- More information about avian influenza, including biosecurity guidance, is available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Recommendations

7. To recommend that you note:

- initial test results for the suspect case of notifiable avian disease at a premises on Isle of Lewis are negative.
- restrictions will remain on the premises until notifiable avian disease has been fully negated.
- the reactive lines in para 6.

Kind regards

(redacted text)

(redacted text), Head of Disease Control branch, Animal Health and Welfare Division
(P Spur)
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate, Scottish Government
Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD
Tel +44(0)300 244 (redacted text) Mobile:(redacted text) Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot

My normal working hours are 9am to 5pm (office based)

From: (redacted text)@gov.scot>
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 2:42 PM
To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>
Cc: [copy list as previously]
Subject: RE: Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Suspicion of Notifiable Avian Disease at a premises on Isle of Lewis

Resending with correction in addressee.

With regards
(redacted text)

(redacted text) | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division |
Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh |
EH11 3XD
Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot

From: (redacted text)
Sent: Friday, September 29, 2023 2:38 PM
To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>
Cc: [copy list as previously]

Subject: Avian Influenza - Submission to Ministers - IMMEDIATE - Suspicion of
Notifiable Avian Disease at a premises on Isle of Lewis

Minister for Energy and the Environment

AVIAN INFLUENZA – SUSPICION OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN DISEASE AT A
PREMISES NEAR STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS.

Priority and purpose

1. To inform you of suspicion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) within a small poultry
flock of ten chickens at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

2. Timing: IMMEDIATE

Recommendations

3. To recommend you note:

- suspicion of NAD within a small poultry flock of 10 chickens near Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis.
- the reactive lines in para 8.

Sent on behalf of (redacted text).

(redacted text) | Disease Control Branch | Animal Health and Welfare Division |
Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
Scottish Government | P Spur | Saughton House | Broomhouse Drive | Edinburgh |
EH11 3XD
Email: (redacted text)@gov.scot

FW: Poultry meeting Forfar - Thu 02/11/2023 12:09

Brief Note of Meeting with NFUS re Poultry Insurance Proposal

At: T Pak, Forfar

Date: Monday 12th June, 12 noon to 12.45pm

Present: Cabinet Secretary RALRI, Mairi Gougeon
(redacted text) (NFUS Poultry Committee Chair and MD TPak)
(redacted text), President NFUS
(redacted text), Policy Officer NFUS
Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland
(redacted text), Head of Disease Control Branch, AHWD

Background:

(redacted text) explained that it has become increasingly hard for poultry keepers to obtain insurance against Avian Influenza, and where it does exist it is at a price which is prohibitive. Some premiums are now x2 or x3 what they were 5 years ago, and the excesses can be as much as 45%.

One producer (with 500k birds) was offered 3 month cover for £19k.

(redacted text) estimates that currently 98% of Scottish poultry producers are not insured against AI, either consequential losses or secondary C and D costs.

Banks are generally not prepared to lend money if there is no insurance in place making the situation worse.

Although the price of eggs has improved, poultry meat is still being sold at a loss. (redacted text) estimates that poultry meat loses up to 7p per kilo currently and that the plant in Coupar Angus makes a loss each week of up to £25k.

Poultry numbers in Scotland have fallen dramatically since 1990, for example from approx. 4m broilers to 750k now. Current numbers (on the ground at any given time are approximately 4.5m layers (including those being reared), 759k broilers and a number of high genetic merit stock (Aviagen)

(redacted text) receives up to 4 calls a day from worried producers and it is possible (likely?) that many will cease poultry production if the situation doesn't improve.

Industry perception is that Game Birds, especially pheasants, are high risk and were responsible for a number of outbreaks in England *{NB this is not evidenced by the epidemiology reports shared with officials by Defra colleagues}*

NFUS are looking for government support not, MK emphasised, finance. This would install confidence in the industry and would make a good news story for both the industry and for Cab Sec / Scot Gov.

The Ask

A government led / backed insurance scheme for poultry producers against Avian Flu to cover against consequential losses (lack of production, ie income while the farm is depopulated), and costs associated with secondary cleansing and disinfection. This to reduce premiums to “an acceptable level”

A levy scheme such as was available for Aujeszky’s disease eradication in pigs was posed as a possible starting point.

This could be linked to producers achieving an acceptable biosecurity standard, as assessed at an unannounced inspection visit every 6 – 12 months.

Clarification was sought, and provided, that this (proposed) scheme would be available to ALL commercial producers with over c3000 birds, not just NFUS members.

NFUS are keen that this is up and running as soon as possible – preferably next week but by end of August at the latest! (Officials explained that legislation etc would take longer if it was practical in the first place)

Actions

NFUS, (redacted text), is meeting an insurance provider this afternoon and will feed back to officials on discussions, and will facilitate a meeting with officials if required.

NFUS, (redacted text), will provide officials a list of companies who previously provided insurance.

SG (redacted text)

SG (redacted text)

SG (redacted text)

SG (redacted text)

Also

There was a discussion about how many days clean was required between visits by government inspectors. SV sought to reassure that this is not like FMD virus which can survive in nasal passages, and that far more important that “days clear of poultry” was good hygiene including hand washing and changes of overalls and boots.

I did however undertake to find out how many each inspector carries out on an average day / week, but noted that disease spread has NEVER been linked to a government official.

ACTION for SG poultry inspectors and APHA.

Sheila Voas, 12/06/2023
07810 757 987

RE: Poultry meeting Forfar - Tue 13/06/2023 11:08

Brief Note of Meeting with NFUS re Poultry Insurance Proposal

At: T Pak, Forfar

Date: Monday 12th June, 12 noon to 12.45pm

Present: Cabinet Secretary RALRI, Mairi Gougeon
(Redacted) (NFUS Poultry Committee Chair and MD TPak)
Martin Kennedy, President NFUS
(Redacted), Policy Officer NFUS
Sheila Voas, CVO Scotland
(Redacted), Head of Disease Control Branch, AHWD

Background:

(Redacted) explained that it has become increasingly hard for poultry keepers to obtain insurance against Avian Influenza, and where it does exist it is at a price which is prohibitive. Some premiums are now x2 or x3 what they were 5 years ago, and the excesses can be as much as 45%.

One producer (with 500k birds) was offered 3 month cover for £19k.

RT estimates that currently 98% of Scottish poultry producers are not insured against AI, either consequential losses or secondary C and D costs.

Banks are generally not prepared to lend money if there is no insurance in place making the situation worse.

Although the price of eggs has improved, poultry meat is still being sold at a loss. RT estimates that poultry meat loses up to 7p per kilo currently and that the plant in Coupar Angus makes a loss each week of up to £25k.

Poultry numbers in Scotland have fallen dramatically since 1990, for example from approx. 4m broilers to 750k now. Current numbers (on the ground at any given time are approximately 4.5m layers (including those being reared), 759k broilers and a number of high genetic merit stock (Aviagen)

RT receives up to 4 calls a day from worried producers and it is possible (likely?) that many will cease poultry production if the situation doesn't improve.

Industry perception is that Game Birds, especially pheasants, are high risk and were responsible for a number of outbreaks in England *{NB this is not evidenced by the epidemiology reports shared with officials by Defra colleagues}*

NFUS are looking for government support not, MK emphasised, finance. This would install confidence in the industry and would make a good news story for both the industry and for Cab Sec / Scot Gov.

The Ask

A government led / backed insurance scheme for poultry producers against Avian Flu to cover against consequential losses (lack of production, ie income while the farm is depopulated), and costs associated with secondary cleansing and disinfection. This to reduce premiums to “an acceptable level”

A levy scheme such as was available for Aujeszky’s disease eradication in pigs was posed as a possible starting point.

This could be linked to producers achieving an acceptable biosecurity standard, as assessed at an unannounced inspection visit every 6 – 12 months.

Clarification was sought, and provided, that this (proposed) scheme would be available to ALL commercial producers with over c3000 birds, not just NFUS members.

NFUS are keen that this is up and running as soon as possible – preferably next week but by end of August at the latest! (Officials explained that legislation etc would take longer if it was practical in the first place)

Actions

NFUS, Martin Kennedy, is meeting an insurance provider this afternoon and will feed back to officials on discussions, and will facilitate a meeting with officials if required.

NFUS, PM, will provide officials a list of companies who previously provided insurance.

SG officials will seek clarification from Defra about the outcomes of the recent meeting between insurance providers and Lord Benyon. *{current intelligence is that there is no intention for Defra to support insurance but may “support” biosecurity audits}*

SG officials will discuss with Insurance providers what the barriers are to insurance being made available.

And with banks what would be required to support loans being made available

SG officials will continue to explore what would be needed for a levy scheme to be brought in (current work has identified that legislation and significant cash investment would both be required)

SG Officials to consider what guidance and audits could be put in place to demonstrate / facilitate good biosecurity.

Also

There was a discussion about how many days clean was required between visits by government inspectors. SV sought to reassure that this is not like FMD virus which

can survive in nasal passages, and that far more important that “days clear of poultry” was good hygiene including hand washing and changes of overalls and boots.

I did however undertake to find out how many each inspector carries out on an average day / week, but noted that disease spread has NEVER been linked to a government official.

ACTION for SG poultry inspectors and APHA.

Sheila Voas, 12/06/2023
07810 757 987

Avian Influenza (AI) - RAI Committee Meeting brief - compensation - 19 September 2023

Since 1st October 2022, there have been **37** Scottish infected premises (IP), and **206** premises in the whole UK, infected with HPAI H5N1. Over the same period, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified **1,586** infected wild birds, **342** in Scotland. All poultry gatherings remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

The Scottish Government has a statutory obligation to humanely cull and safely dispose of all birds on an infected premises, and to pay compensation for healthy birds culled.

TOP LINES

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We continue to provide financial support to those whose businesses are affected by avian influenza.

- £6.2 m has been paid to keepers in compensation in this season so far, in addition to Scottish Government spend of £3.3 m on disease control measures.
- Total compensation paid for islands this season (2022/23) is £460. However, this figure does not include the recently confirmed cases, with valuation pending.

Culling of birds

Key principles apply in the humane culling of birds for disease control purposes, including:

- Human health and welfare considerations are paramount.
- Birds to be culled to control disease spread must be culled as soon as possible.
- Birds must be culled in such a way as to minimise the risk of the onward spread of disease.

- In very limited circumstances and subject to a veterinary risk assessment, birds may be moved from the premises (e.g. to a slaughterhouse) to be culled.
- Samples may be taken as directed by expert epidemiological opinion.
- Welfare of birds to be culled is an important consideration and is subject to strict legal controls.

Compensation

In line with the Animal Health Act 1981 (as amended), government's policy on compensation for avian influenza is as follows:

- For poultry or other captive birds not diseased at the time of killing, compensation is payable at the value of the birds immediately before killing.
- For poultry or other captive birds dead or diseased at the time of killing, no compensation is payable.

The following principles also apply:

- Only poultry or other captive birds killed under orders from government can be compensated for.
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) makes an assessment of the disease status of the poultry (including game birds and poultry kept as pets) or other captive birds, based on clinical inspection and veterinary judgment of the number of birds considered to be affected with the disease for which they are being killed. The assessment is made shortly before the killing of birds at the infected premises (IP) begins.
- Compensation will be paid for other things that have to be seized by government (for example eggs that have not originated from the IP but may have been subsequently exposed to the virus in a hatchery), because they pose a risk of transmitting disease and cannot be cleansed and disinfected. This will be at the value of the item at the time of seizure (and could mean that the item has very little or even no value if it is considered contaminated following a veterinary risk assessment).
- Compensation is not paid for eggs or poultry meat that are required to be disposed of at the IP or following trace investigations from an IP (as they are from affected birds). This also applies to any carcasses of birds that have died before culling has commenced.
- Compensation is not paid for consequential losses, including business interruption caused by control measures, for example losses due to movement bans or lost sales opportunities.
- Any money received from an insurance policy that covers compensated loss as a result of disease would be subtracted from compensation paid by government, or if already paid then must be reimbursed.

Valuation

Determination of the value of poultry (including game birds and poultry kept as pets) and other captive birds will be carried out by one of the following methods:

- Valuation by APHA using a valuation rate card – this is the default option where this is available for the species and type of bird to be killed. These rate

cards are updated periodically. If a rate card is not available, APHA may commission a new generic rate card. The new cards are added to our library and if still relevant, can be used in future outbreaks.

- Exceptionally, APHA may consider a request by a keeper to use a bespoke valuation commissioned by the keeper, where they feel the birds are not commercial and are particularly rare. This option would also apply to primary breeding stock. This valuation will need to be accompanied by full details (including photographs) of the age and breed of poultry. APHA may appoint an independent valuer who is suitably qualified and experienced to review this valuation
- Specialist poultry consultants / valuers – these are used when no other method of valuation is possible.

SCANCE Contribution (11 August 2023)

Cleared contributions must be with Cabinet Secretariat by 1 pm on Mondays, (unless an extension has been agreed):

Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox

- The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This virus is usually seasonal, with a peak during the winter. However we are seeing it persist in the environment and in resident wild birds over the summer.
- The most recent cases in Scotland were confirmed in a small chicken flock at premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and in a commercial pheasants flock near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire on 8th August, and in a small commercial layer flock in Lochcarron, Highlands on 9th August.
- As a result, the Scottish Ministers declared all three premises as infected premises(IP), and implemented a 3 km Protection Zone, and a 10 km Surveillance Zone around each IP in accordance with legislation.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 4th July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high. Low risk does not mean no risk.
- There has been an increase in reports of mass mortality events in seabirds, particularly in the north-east, impacting predominantly kittiwakes, gull species, terns and guillemots. The Scottish Government are working with NatureScot and APHA to monitor the situation.
- The risk to the general public from avian influenza is still **very low**. Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for people consuming poultry products, including eggs.

Speaking Note

A copy of this should be sent to Cabinet Secretariat when complete

Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox

- 1.** Scotland is experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza. In the UK, there have been 194 total premises infected with HPAI in the same period.
- 2.** We have now confirmed twenty-seven cases in Scotland during this outbreak season, including three cases confirmed last week on the Isle of Lewis, in Aberdeenshire, and in Lochcarron, Highlands. This is an increase from eleven cases during the previous season.
- 3.** Officials continue to promote good biosecurity for all bird keepers. This includes a biosecurity workshop in September, which welcomes all smallholder and hobby bird keepers.
- 4.** Costs associated with animal disease outbreaks are demand led due to their unpredictable nature and as a result pose a risk to the budget. The current avian influenza season has cost upwards of £8.3 million, due to compensation and disease control measures. This is an increase of £6.6 million compared to last season.
- 5.** The Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan has been developed and was published on the 11th of August, drawing on expertise from the Task Force. It sets out the multi-agency approach to monitoring and mitigating the spread of the virus, and provides guidance to regulators, the general public, those involved in animal rescue, researchers and academics and environmental non-government bodies on issues relating to avian influenza in wild birds.
- 6.** There is surveillance underway to monitor potential spill-over of influenza of avian origin from wild birds into mammals. Infection of mammals remains uncommon, including in humans, and significant mammalian adaptation has not been found to date.

Links to further information (if applicable)	Information about avian influenza and biosecurity guidance: www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza .
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Name of Official: (redacted text)	Extension Number: (redacted text)
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Background

- Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed twenty seven premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.
- The locations of these infected premises are: ten in Aberdeenshire; three in the Highlands; two each in Fife, Moray, Orkney Islands and the Isle of Lewis; and one each in Clackmannan, Stirling, Dumfries and Galloway, Angus, Perth and Kinross and East Ayrshire.
- The Scottish Government acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises (where required). Movement restrictions are in place, which includes restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The three most recent cases in Scotland were confirmed on the 8th of August in a small backyard flock of chickens at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and in a commercial flock of pheasants near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire, and on the 9th of August in a small commercial free-range chicken layer flock in Lochcarron, Highlands.
- The previous highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak season (in 2021/22) had eleven confirmed cases in Scotland.
- The current risk level for wild birds (as at the 11th of August) is maintained at high and the risk levels for poultry are maintained at low with low uncertainty where biosecurity is stringent, but with high uncertainty where biosecurity is suboptimal.
- The total cost for the 2022/23 outbreak season (which began on the 1st of October) so far is around £8.3m, with further costs for recent outbreaks still being established. £8m was paid in FY 2022-23 and the remaining £0.3m and any further costs will be paid in FY 2023-24 against a ringfenced budget of £2m.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still **very low**. However, the risk to people with **intensive exposure** to infected birds is considered to be **low**.
- Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a **very low food safety risk** for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Avian influenza is a [notifiable animal disease](#). If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or other captive birds you must report it immediately by contacting your local Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [Field Services Office](#). Failure to do so is an offence.

[Best practice biosecurity webinar for smallholders of poultry or other captive birds](#)

- The Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division have invited all smallholder or hobby keepers of poultry or other captive birds in Scotland to an online webinar on Tuesday the 5th of September.
- A similar workshop was ran in April 2023 for the commercial sector.
- The workshop will highlight findings from recent highly pathogenic avian influenza cases across the UK and will focus on how excellent standards of biosecurity are required in order to protect flocks and prevent the spread of avian influenza and other avian diseases. This will help to protect the health and welfare of birds due to the continued risk from avian influenza, particularly as we move forward into the peak high risk period this winter.
- Excellent biosecurity is a vital tool in preventing the spread of avian influenza.
- The webinar will:
 - Provide information on the national situation, including the latest on HPAI virus transmission routes
 - Provide information on essential biosecurity measures that all keepers of poultry and other captive birds should be taking, reflecting on the most common biosecurity gaps and lessons learned from previous outbreaks
 - Provide information on the Scottish Government's key disease control measures, including the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone, our biosecurity self-assessment checklist, disease control zones and potential use of compulsory housing
 - End with an opportunity to ask questions
- Anyone can register for the event using this link: https://teams.microsoft.com/registration/R3T3DoMQ7E24nyfHZQdoQA,rayM9ATXmEaONWdhy5y63A,Ds91ufWldk-n_TI5ZJl-Mw,h7g0PLqOski7HfMEsdOOonw,NR_tCnxZoUmljlALjaeolw,QJBu5kOtk6rDCmwwiR0Dg?mode=read&tenantId=0ef77447-1083-4dec-b89f-27c765076840

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ)

- On the 17th of October 2022, in response to rising numbers of cases in poultry, all the UK administrations brought into force an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in which additional biosecurity measures to help protect poultry and captive birds became mandatory.
- Measures included:
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use of disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use of effective vermin control
 - keeping fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water which may attract wild waterfowl so they are inaccessible to poultry.
- The AIPZ was lifted by Scottish Ministers on the 4th of July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry

and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high. Low risk does not mean no risk.

Housing measures

- Initially, the mandatory housing of free-range poultry was not a requirement of the AIPZ in any UK administration, other than in small regions of England, which had been especially badly hit and where housing was required from the 10th of October. However, over the following weeks a mandatory housing requirement was added to the AIPZ to cover the whole of England (7th November 2022), Northern Ireland (28th November 2022) and Wales (2nd December 2022).
- A veterinary risk assessment carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) showed that excellent biosecurity alone will give protection of a factor of x44, whereas housing of poultry only protects to a factor of x2, and even then only when biosecurity is optimal.
- There is emerging, but as yet unpublished, evidence from the UK national reference laboratory and World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and FAO reference laboratories (Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at Weybridge) that when biosecurity is sub-optimal, housing itself can be a risk factor, as the birds are stressed and become sick from a much lower infectious dose of avian influenza virus.
- Lessons from the 2021 – 22 avian influenza season, when mandatory housing was required, demonstrated that the welfare of birds, particularly those kept in smaller flocks, can be seriously compromised by being kept indoors in what is often unsuitable accommodation not designed for daytime use. We also learned from Local Authorities (who are responsible for enforcement) of the burden placed on them by reports of backyard and hobby keepers not complying with the housing requirement.
- Risk assessments carried out by EPIC, the Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks funded by the Scottish Government, have shown that the risk of spread of avian influenza from backyard poultry does not significantly increase the risk from that posed by infected wild birds.
- The majority of Scottish highly pathogenic avian influenza cases in commercial poultry this season have been in housed birds, despite the majority of Scottish poultry being kept in free-range production systems. Epidemiological investigations carried out for each confirmed case have identified serious biosecurity failures in most of these flocks, including ingress by wild birds to the poultry house, rodent infestation problems or flooding from nearby waterways.
- A number of sources of additional evidence have been used to help predict the risk of avian influenza in Scottish poultry, to augment the emerging data on individual cases. These data sources include:
 - Horizon scanning to understand patterns of disease across other parts of the UK and Europe, as well as worldwide trends and patterns
 - Epidemiological reports of confirmed cases
 - Wild bird data from the UK and beyond, including species, numbers and geography of cases, and importantly negative animals
 - Ornithological expert input into patterns of migration, and wild bird behaviour, including likely interactions with domestic poultry
 - Met Office data on weather patterns likely to trigger movement of wild birds

- Gene sequencing and mutation analysis to determine changes in the virus that may change how it behaves in a population.

Vaccination against HPAI H5N1

- The vaccination of poultry and other captive birds against avian influenza is not currently permitted. Vaccination is not a routine preventative measure and is a practice prohibited by legislation. There is limited experimental evidence available on the effectiveness of vaccination of poultry and other captive birds against avian influenza, and its varying strains, and there are no vaccines currently available that would guarantee the immune responses required.
- If vaccinations were to be applied, there is a danger that they could 'mask' the occurrence of disease in a farm, delaying its detection. A poorly applied vaccination programme could even lead to the persistence of disease, whilst vaccinated birds may still be capable of transmitting the virus. Further concerns are that a vaccination programme could have trading implications with EU/third countries.
- New developments in avian influenza vaccinations and their potential use are continually being considered and appraised and a new joint-industry, cross-government task force is being established to explore options and to develop recommendations for the use of vaccination against highly pathogenic avian influenza in the UK. However, currently the proven effective preventative measure against avian influenza remains the application of onsite biosecurity, which is of fundamental importance to the avian influenza prevention and control strategy for Scotland.

The Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan

- The Scottish Government is taking the current avian influenza situation very seriously and continues to work with partner organisations through the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force to monitor and report the situation where action can be taken, recognising the importance of communication and coordination in preparedness and responses.
- The Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan was published on the 11th of August 2023.
- The plan sets out the approach that the Scottish Government and its partners have taken to respond to the current, and any future outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds in Scotland.
- It also provides guidance to regulators, the general public, those involved in animal rescue, researchers and NGOs on issues relating to highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds.
- The plan encourages the public to report findings of dead wild birds online using the online reporting system or by calling the GB helpline.
- Dead wild birds can carry a number of diseases. Therefore, the plan advises that they should not be touched, and should be left in situ. At present, there is no scientific evidence that the removal of carcasses significantly reduces the risk of onward spread of the current strain amongst wild birds in high density areas.
- The response plan provides guidance for land owners and local authorities on how to safely dispose of dead wild bird carcasses, including recommended PPE. There is no obligation on landowners or local authorities to remove dead wild birds when they are not causing a public hygiene risk. However, it is recognised

that members of the public, landowners and local authorities may choose, at their own discretion and cost, to collect and dispose of dead wild birds.

- The Plan is a live document and continues to be subject to review, taking into account lessons learned, policy developments, the latest scientific advice and experiences from operational partners and stakeholders.

Avian Influenza Insurance

- The topic of insurance was discussed in a meeting with NFUS by Ms Gougeon and CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas, on the 15th of December 2022 and the 12th of June 2023. It was noted that there are increasing difficulties for poultry producers to secure insurance to protect against avian influenza.
- The Scottish Government have committed to investigating how guidance and audits could be used to demonstrate and facilitate higher standards of biosecurity to support the sector being able to access more affordable insurance products against avian influenza.
- The Scottish Government have continued discussions about insurance, and changes to ways of working, including a recent meeting with NFUS on the 1st of August on this topic.

Compensation

- The current compensation process in place in Scotland is that, when animals are culled, as part of the Scottish Government's response to controlling highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks on affected farms, compensation, as set out in the Animal Health Act 1981, is payable for healthy birds only. There is no compensation available for sick birds or birds that have died.
- The amount of compensation is established by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) using the relevant valuation rate card (or for specialist stock by a specialist valuer). The valuation rate cards are updated by APHA five times per year (in November, January, March, June and September) to ensure rates are in line with average market values for the types of birds covered.
- The Scottish Government's policy on compensation has not changed and remains consistent with those of Defra and the Welsh Government. However, on a case by case basis, the Scottish Government has agreed that we will pay compensation based on the number of birds alive and healthy at the time at which disease is confirmed by CVO Scotland/Deputy CVO Scotland. While slightly higher in terms of compensation paid than if we waited for the cull to commence, we believe this is fair and pragmatic given the demand this outbreak, geography and weather conditions have placed on operational resources, which have at times led to delays..
- This reflects the point at which all decision making was removed from the owners control, as any delay after that is not the fault of the owner.

Outbreak Finance

- We administratively closed the 2021/22 highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak season on the 30th of September 2022 with 158 premises infected with HPAI H5N1 in the UK: eleven in Scotland, seven in Wales, six in Northern Ireland and 134 in England. Prior to this, the largest number was 26 total confirmed cases of HPAI in the UK in 2020/21, and 13 in 2016/17.

- The total cost of the 2021/22 outbreak season in Scotland was £1.7m (£0.7m in financial year 2021/22 and £1m in financial year 2022/23).
- The total cost for the 2022/23 outbreak season (which began on the 1st of October 2022) in Scotland so far is around £8.3m, with further costs for recent outbreaks still being established. The £8.3m total is comprised of around £5.5m for compensation and £2.8m for disease control costs. £8m was paid in financial year 2022-23 and the remaining £0.3m and any further costs will be paid in financial year 2023-24 against a ringfenced budget of £2m..
- However, the total cost of compensation is likely to increase substantially, as the compensation valuation for one of the infected premises is under dispute, and officials await the outcome of an independent valuation by a valuer appointed by APHA. The outcome could be considerably more than previously expected, at several millions of pounds, due to the high genetic value of the birds culled on the infected premises.
- The 2023-24 outbreak season will commence on 1 October 2023. While outbreaks are unpredictable and costs depend on the size and nature of the infected premises, we have obtained forecast figures from APHA which suggest costs for the next outbreak season may reach around £3.6m. The majority of these costs are likely to be incurred during the colder months and therefore would be paid from FY 2023-24 budgets.
- Costs associated with animal disease outbreaks are demand led due to their unpredictable nature and as a result pose a risk to the budget. In FY 2023-24 a ringfenced budget of £2m has been allocated to cover costs associated with Avian Influenza outbreaks.
- Close monitoring of cost against budget is being undertaken with engagement with finance colleagues. Action will be taken as necessary to seek to minimise the impact on the SG budget position overall.

SCANCE Contribution (03 March 2023)

Cleared contributions must be with Cabinet Secretariat by 1pm on Mondays, (unless an extension has been agreed):

Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox

On 17 October 2022, in response to rising numbers of cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry, all the UK administrations brought into force an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in which additional biosecurity measures to help protect poultry and captive birds became mandatory.

Following subsequent risk assessments by Chief Veterinary Officers (CVO) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds were introduced as part of the AIPZ controls. Some parts of industry have been pressing Scottish Government to introduce mandatory housing in Scotland. The decision on whether a housing order is introduced is a matter for Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer and follows the analysis of a wide range of available evidence. CVO Scotland continues to keep Scotland's position under review and current evidence includes numbers and geographical distribution of poultry and wild bird cases and epidemiological reports on risk pathways does not yet justify imposing a housing order in Scotland.

A veterinary risk assessment carried out by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) has shown that excellent biosecurity alone will give protection of a factor of x44, whereas housing of poultry only protects to a factor of x2, and even then only when biosecurity is optimal. As cases of HPAI in poultry and wild birds continue to drop the potential benefits of housing are further diminished.

Speaking Note

A copy of this should be sent to Cabinet Secretariat when complete

Send to your Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretariat Inbox

1. Scotland is experiencing the worst ever outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). At present the balance of evidence, weighed against adverse welfare impacts, does not point to a significant benefit from mandatory housing of birds across Scotland.
2. Lessons from the 2021 – 22 AI season when mandatory housing was required in Scotland demonstrated that the welfare of birds, particularly those kept in smaller flocks, can be seriously compromised by being kept indoors in what is often accommodation not designed for daytime use.
3. 0.72% of Scottish commercial poultry flocks have been affected by HPAI, and most were already voluntarily housed. In comparison 0.75% of commercial flocks in England, where housing is mandatory, have been affected.

Links to further information (if applicable)

Information about avian influenza, details of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone and biosecurity guidance: www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza.

Name of Official: (redacted text)

Extension Number: (redacted text)

Background

- Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed twenty one premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1
- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- The latest Scottish case confirmed near Stirling, Stirling local authority area, (15 Feb) involves a non-commercial poultry flock of seven rescue hens.

- The total estimated cost for the 2022/23 outbreak season (began 01 Oct) so far is around £6m. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded budgetary pressure.
- Following a risk assessment, a derogation was applied to infected premises, near Tain (21 Jan) and Clackmannan (24 Jan) which allowed Ministers to derogate from requirements to implement a 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone. A 3 km Surveillance Zone has been put in place in both cases and within these zones there are requirements for record keeping, implementing biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of the spread of avian influenza and the release of game birds is prohibited.
- Movement restrictions are in place around all other infected premises within the protection and surveillance zones include restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.

Housing measures

- On 17 October 2022, in response to rising numbers of cases in poultry, all the UK administrations brought into force an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in which additional biosecurity measures to help protect poultry and captive birds became mandatory.
- Measures include
 - cleansing and disinfecting clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry or other captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
 - reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and other captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
 - keeping fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimising direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds with wild birds, including making sure feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
 - fencing off areas of standing water which may attract wild waterfowl so they are inaccessible to poultry.
- Initially the mandatory housing of free range poultry was not a requirement of the AIPZ in any UK administration, other than in small regions of England which had been especially badly hit and where housing was required from 10th October. However over the following weeks a mandatory housing requirement was added to the AIPZ to cover the whole of England (7th November 2022), Northern Ireland (28th November 2022) and Wales (2nd December 2022).
- A veterinary risk assessment carried out by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority) has shown that excellent biosecurity alone will give protection of a factor of x44, whereas housing of poultry only protects to a factor of x2, and even then only when biosecurity is optimal.
- There is emerging, but as yet unpublished, evidence from the UK national reference laboratory and WOA (World Organisation for Animal Health) and FAO reference laboratories (Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at Weybridge) that when biosecurity is sub optimal, housing itself can be a risk

factor as the birds are stressed and become sick from a much lower infectious dose of AI Virus.

- Lessons from the 2021 – 22 AI season when mandatory housing was required demonstrated that the welfare of birds, particularly those kept in smaller flocks, can be seriously compromised by being kept indoors in what is often unsuitable accommodation not designed for daytime use. We also learned from Local Authorities (who are responsible for enforcement) the burden placed on them by reports of backyard and hobby keepers not complying with the housing requirement.
- Risk assessments carried out by EPIC, the Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks funded by Scottish Government, have shown that the risk of spread of Avian Influenza from backyard poultry does not significantly increase the risk from that posed by infected wild birds.
- The majority of Scottish HPAI cases in commercial poultry this season have been in housed birds, despite the majority of Scottish Poultry being kept in free range production systems. Epidemiological investigations, carried out for each confirmed case have identified serious biosecurity failures in most of these flocks, including ingress by wild birds to the poultry house, rodent infestation problems or flooding from nearby waterways.
- A number of sources of additional evidence have been used to help predict the risk of Avian Influenza in Scottish Poultry, to augment the emerging data on individual cases. These data sources include
 - Horizon scanning to understand patterns of disease across other parts of the UK and Europe, as well as worldwide trends and patterns
 - Epidemiological reports of confirmed cases
 - Wild bird data from UK and beyond, including species, numbers and geography of cases, and importantly negative animals.
 - Ornithological expert input into patterns of migration, and wild bird behaviour including likely interactions with domestic poultry,
 - Met Office data on weather patterns likely to trigger movement of wild birds
 - Gene sequencing and mutation analysis to determine changes in the virus that may change how it behaves in a population.

Avian Influenza Insurance

- The topic of insurance was discussed in meeting with NFUS by Ms Gougeon and CVO Scotland, Sheila Voas on 15 December. It was noted that there are increasing difficulties for poultry producers to secure insurance to protect against Avian Flu.
- NFUS and Scottish Government agreed to investigate a scheme, which could be based on the previous Aujeszky's disease scheme in pigs, with a producer levy and potentially matched funding supporting industry.
- Scottish Government will also continue UK discussions about insurance, and changes to ways of working.

Compensation

- The current compensation process in place in Scotland is that, when animals are culled, as part of Scottish government's response to controlling HPAI outbreaks on affected farms, compensation, as set out in the Animal Health Act

1981, is payable for healthy birds only. There is no compensation available for sick birds or birds that have died.

- The amount of compensation is established by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) using the relevant valuation rate card (or for specialist stock by a specialist valuer). The valuation rate cards are updated by APHA five times per year (in November, January, March, June and September) to ensure rates are in line with average market values for the types of birds covered.
- Scottish Government's policy on compensation has not changed and remains consistent with those of Defra and Welsh Government. However, on a case by case basis, Scottish Government has agreed that we will pay compensation based on the number of birds alive and healthy at the time at which disease is confirmed by CVOS/dCVOS. While slightly higher in terms of compensation paid than if we waited for the cull to commence, we believe this is fair and pragmatic given the demand this outbreak, geography and weather conditions have placed on operational resources which have at times led to delays.
- This reflects the point at which all decision making was removed from the owners control as any delay after that is not the fault of the owner.

Email meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP 2 March

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 01 March 2023 17:53

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>

Cc: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Deputy Director for Land Reform, Rural and Islands Policy <DeputyDirectorLandReformRuralAndIslandsPolicy@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP - 2nd March

Hi [Redacted],

As discussed, briefing now attached for the Minister's meeting with Arianne Burgess tomorrow. If you need anything else, please let me know.

[Redacted]

As discussed on teams official support for the meeting will be [[Redacted], [Redacted], and [Redacted].

Many Thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Marine Scotland | The Scottish Government | [Redacted], Victoria Quay | Edinburgh EH6 6QQ |

e: [Redacted] w: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marinescotland>

From: [Redacted] >

Sent: 01 March 2023 17:17

To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; McQueen J (James) <James.McQueen@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>

Cc: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP - 2nd March

Hi [Redacted]

We are just checking the final document now prior to sending.

Thanks

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 01 March 2023 17:03
To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; [Redacted];
[Redacted]; [Redacted]; Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>;
Director of Environment & Forestry <director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Marine
Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>
Cc: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP - 2nd March

Hi - just wondering if there was any update to this.

Many thanks

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] Minister for Environment and Land Reform - Màiri
McAllan

The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Tel: **0131 244 2435** Mob: 07587
673564 | Email: MinisterELR@gov.scot

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

From: [Redacted] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 20 February 2023 13:13
To: [Redacted]; [Redacted] ; [Redacted]; Director of Environment & Forestry
<director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Environment & Forestry
<director.enfor@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox
<Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>
Cc: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>; McFarlane J
(John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Subject: Meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP - 2nd March

Hi all,

Wondering if you could help at all.

Ms McAllan is due to meet Ariane Burgess MSP on 2nd March, and I would be grateful if we could please get a pack that covers the following :

1. [Redacted]
2. Avian flu and wildfowling
3. [Redacted]
4. [Redacted]
5. [Redacted]
6. [Redacted]

It would also be great to have officials joining – maybe 3 max ? and if we could please have the pack by COP Tuesday 28th Feb that would be great.

Happy to discuss.

Many thanks
[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Redacted] Minister for Environment and Land Reform - Màiri McAllan

The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot | Tel: **0131 244 2435** Mob: 07587 673564 | Email: MinisterELR@gov.scot

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NZET coordination Minister for Environment and Land Reform meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP 2 March 2023.

Minister for Environment and Land Reform meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP
2 March 2023

What	Minister for Environment and Land Reform meeting with Arianne Burgess MSP
When	Thursday 2 March – 16.00
Briefing	<p>[Redacted]</p> <p>1. Wildfowling in Findhorn Bay; woodcock and avian flu (<i>page 20</i>)</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

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Avian flu and wildfowling

1. Avian Influenza

Top Lines

Since the start of October 2022, Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed twenty-one premises infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1.

- The locations of these infected premises are: one in the Stirling local authority area, one in Clackmannanshire, two in Highland, two in Orkney, one on Lewis, seven in Aberdeenshire, one in East Ayrshire, one in Moray, one in Perth & Kinross, two in Fife, one in Angus and one in Dumfries and Galloway. The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises.
- The latest Scottish case confirmed near Stirling, Stirling local authority area, (15 Feb) involves a non-commercial poultry flock of seven rescue hens.
- The cost to government to compensate for birds culled and disease control measures is estimated to be around £2.1m. The total estimated cost for the 2022/23 outbreak season (began 01 Oct) so far is around £6.6m. Animal disease outbreaks are unbudgeted and are therefore an unfunded budgetary pressure.
- Following a risk assessment, a derogation was applied to infected premises, near Tain (21 Jan) and Clackmannan (24 Jan) which allowed Ministers to derogate the from requirements to implement a 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone. A 3 km Surveillance Zone has been put in place in both cases and within these zones there are requirements for record keeping, implementing biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of the spread of avian influenza and the release of game birds is prohibited.
- Movement restrictions are in place around all other infected premises within the protection and surveillance zones include restrictions on the movement of poultry, carcasses, eggs, used poultry litter and manure, to prevent any further spread of disease.
- The 2022/23 HPAI outbreak season started on 1st Oct 2022. HPAI H5N1 has since been confirmed (as 27 Feb) in **174** premises in the UK: **21** in Scotland, **5** in Wales, **1** in Northern Ireland and **147** in England.
- The risk of incursion to wild birds of HPAI has remained at VERY HIGH. The risk for poultry with sub-optimal biosecurity is HIGH, and for poultry with stringent biosecurity is MEDIUM.

Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ)

Following an increase in avian influenza detections in wild birds and poultry and other captive birds, the Chief Veterinary Officers from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across the whole of the United Kingdom to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading amongst poultry and other captive birds.

- Therefore, from Monday 17th October, it became a legal requirement for all bird keepers in the UK to follow strict biosecurity measures to help protect their flocks from the threat of avian flu.
- The housing of all poultry and captive birds is now mandatory in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.
- The Scottish Government is keeping the situation under constant review; however, the current evidence does not yet justify imposing a housing order in Scotland.
- In England where all poultry and captive birds are required to be housed, we continue to see cases of HPAI in both commercial and backyard premises. Excellent biosecurity continues to be the number one defence against HPAI H5N1.
- The decision on whether a housing order is introduced is a matter for Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer and follows the analysis of a wide range of available evidence.
- This includes numbers and geographical distribution of poultry cases, epidemiological reports on risk pathways, risk assessments on disease risk level, alongside case numbers and geographical distribution of wild bird findings.
- This is balanced with published data on the risk reduction of biosecurity measures, compared to risk reduction from housing, alongside welfare problems following housing.
- This is augmented by international disease monitoring and the situation in other countries, especially across Great Britain.
- A judgment is made from a veterinary perspective on the expected benefits of introducing a housing order against any potential consequences.
- All poultry gatherings remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

Wild Birds

- The 2021-22 season saw the UK's largest outbreak of avian influenza to date, which affected wild bird populations, including some internationally important seabird populations.
- A Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force was established to co-ordinate activity to monitor and minimise the impact of avian influenza on wild birds.
- A Scottish Avian Influenza in Wild Birds Response Plan is currently being developed which will set out how we will respond to any future outbreaks of avian influenza in wild birds.

From 1st October 2022, the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme has identified 827 wild birds infected with HPAI H5N1, with 113 findings of HPAI H5N1 in Scotland (6 of which were samples collected before October).

- The public in Great Britain are being advised that if they find:
 - a single dead bird of prey, swan, goose, duck or gull, or
 - five or more dead wild birds of any other species_at the same place at the same time,
 they should report them to Defra's GB National online reporting system.
- If people wish to submit a report without providing contact details, then the GB telephone helpline should be used: 03459 33 55 77. They must be 18 or over to use this service to report dead wild birds.

- **It is advisable that they do not touch these birds.**
- Sick or injured wild birds should be reported to the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) in Scotland by telephone (03000 999 999).
- However, currently, sick wild birds of high-risk species cannot be taken to SSPCA animal rescue and rehoming centres.

Avian Influenza in Mammals

Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals, that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland.

- APHA routinely undertakes diagnostic testing of wild animals found dead under the GB wildlife surveillance scheme. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- The risk to human health from the virus is low and Food Standards Scotland advises that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- This is an unusual event and infection of mammals with influenza of avian origin remains an uncommon infection, including in humans. The risk of the H5N1 strain to non-avian UK wildlife remains low.
- Genomic analysis has not identified predicted changes as a result to adaptation to a mammalian host. There is currently no consistent evidence of wild mammal-to-mammal transmission of H5N1 HPAIV'
- The public are advised, if they find a dead animal of any species, please don't pick it up. Carcasses may present health risks and are best left alone.
- In Scotland the public are advised to, note where they saw the dead animal and contact their **local NatureScot area office** for advice. For dead seals or cetaceans please report it to the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme.

Avian Influenza – AI Mutation Found in Seals

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Virus Mutation Found in Scottish Seals

- Samples taken as part of routine wildlife surveillance since 2021 have detected the presence of H5N1 influenza of avian origin in six foxes, four otters and four seals that were found dead in England, Wales and Scotland. The detection of the virus does not mean that it was the cause of death of these animals.
- As a result of further genetic analysis carried out on all of the historical samples, the sequencing done in samples from two seals, collected in 2021 and 2022 in Scotland, has identified a mutation (PB2-E627K). This mutation is well-known as a genetic marker for host adaptation, virulence and transmission of influenza A viruses.
- This is not an unexpected finding. As a single mutation, there is no indication that this virus is becoming fully adapted to a mammalian host, nor will trigger mammal to mammal transmission.

Public Health

The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low.

- Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- Officials are aware that a case of influenza of avian origin H5N1 has been confirmed in a 11-year-old girl in Cambodia who has contact with backyard poultry and has subsequently died. The girl's father has also been reported to have tested positive although is said to be asymptomatic. Officials continue to liaise with the Public Health Scotland for any updated advice on the risk to humans.

2. Sensitivities

Current PQs by Ariane Burgess

Ariane Burgess has lodged five PQs in relation to HPAI (and another five for wildlife management) which coincided with an article in The Highland Times on 4 February 2023 in which she raises the risk of HPAI spreading to wildlife from game birds released by shooting estates and the risk around mammals.

The PQs are about resource constraints on HPAI testing on wild bird populations in Moray; the number of tests in Moray this outbreak season (since 1 October 2022); what proportion of released non-native gamebirds are from registered captive bird operations; SG's position on the findings of the DEFRA Risk Assessment on the spread of HPAI to wild birds from released gamebirds in Great Britain; and whether SG is assessing the potential risk of future HPAI transmission from released non-native game birds in Scotland to wild mammals.

- HPAI was confirmed at a premises in Forres, Moray, on 14 December 2022. All zonal restrictions within this area have now been lifted
- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds on behalf of SG to inform the disease risk for domestic poultry and captive birds. Reports of dead wild birds are triaged and not all birds will be collected. The triage process allows SG to understand the levels of risk to poultry, other captive birds and public health and what relevant mitigation measures may be adopted commensurate to the level of risk. It was not designed to help understand how the disease impacted wild bird populations from a conservation perspective. NatureScot are not aware of any resource constraints affecting HPAI testing of dead wild birds in Moray. As of 17 February 2023, 12 wild birds in Moray were tested for HPAI under the GB dead wild bird surveillance scheme.
- In GB, it is a legal requirement to register your birds if you keep 50 or more poultry. Keepers with less than 50 birds are strongly encouraged to register voluntarily. This includes British species.
- SG is examining the risk assessment conclusion in detail given the serious impact of HPAI on wild and kept birds and will monitor risk levels and carefully consider its response over coming months. The release of game birds is prohibited within an avian influenza protection zone and surveillance zone. When kept there is a legal requirement to report suspicion of notifiable avian disease in game birds. Where

Special Protected Area (SPA)/Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated for vulnerable species consent from NatureScot is required for release of game birds.

- Of the nine mammals that have tested positive for influenza of avian origin, there are no known links to the release of non-native game birds. SG continues to monitor the outputs the GB wildlife surveillance scheme and assess any future risks.

Q&A

Ms Burgess has previously asked questions on the level of impact to wild bird populations. We have the following previously agreed lines related to wild birds:

- The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) carries out year-round avian influenza surveillance of dead wild birds reported to Defra's GB national helpline. These figures capture information on the general location and strains of avian influenza that might be prevalent in wild birds and are not an indication of the total estimated mortality. More information, including the findings of HPAI in wild birds are available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/avian-influenza-outbreaks/#wildbirds>.
- In addition to the GB surveillance programme, during the 2021/22 NatureScot and other relevant parties carried out monitoring at key seabird colonies across Scotland to collect data on bird numbers and any mortality events. While the full extent of mortality is unknown, some seabird colonies have clearly been affected by the avian influenza outbreak.
- The Scottish Government is working with Naturescot, RSPB Scotland and the British Trust for Ornithology to develop the 2023 breeding season colony counts to assess the status of seabird colonies.
- NatureScot have a number of monitoring programmes in place across Scotland consisting of geese populations counts and monitoring distribution during the winter period.

3. Wildfowling -

ISSUE

- There are concerns about the impact that this current outbreak of HPAI is having across some of our important species.
- Avian flu is known to circulate widely in birds and wildfowl in particular can carry the disease without necessarily showing symptoms.
- From time to time different variants emerge and cause significant outbreaks in differing species.
- Unfortunately, wild birds will die from different outbreaks at different rates, irrespective of any management activities.

Top Lines

- All wild birds in the UK are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).
- In Scotland, this Act allows certain quarry species of goose and duck to be legally shot during their open season

- These can be shot below the high water mark for ordinary spring tides from 1st September to 20th February inclusive except on Sundays and Christmas Day.
- The quarry species are Canada, greylag and pink footed geese as well as the following duck species - gadwell, goldeneye, mallard, pintail, pochard, shoveller, teal, tufted and wigeon.
- If anyone suspects that carcasses may be infected, they should consult the Scottish Government's latest guidance to check the latest threshold for reporting dead wild birds to Defra's national GB helpline and should not touch or pick them up.

Since wildfowling on the foreshore is a public right, this can only be limited for conservation purposes

- Byelaws could be set up which would control or limit the numbers of shooters using the area.
- The management of Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) is the responsibility of local authorities who have powers to make bylaws to protect the interests of LNRs.
- Management is frequently delegated to a committee comprising a range of local interests.
- A number of wildfowling clubs have been instrumental in setting up a number of these Local Nature Reserves; Montrose Basin, Wigtown Bay and the Eden being examples. If there was evidence of damage to the natural features of the protected areas.
- NatureScot could seek to introduce byelaws or Scottish Ministers could make a nature conservation order to limit the public right to wildfowl on the site.
- National organisations, like the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, can also play a valuable role in the management of wildfowling through their membership, training and promotion of best practice.

We have still to determine whether there is an increased risk that shooting represents generally, in terms of the spread of avian influenza through the further movement of wild species

- It is believed that disturbance generally results in localised changes only. Along with a wide range of other factors, this remains under continuous review.

We are not intending to carry out a review on wildfowling in Scotland

- NatureScot are currently undertaking a review on Schedule 2 (the quarry list) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which determines the species that can currently be taken by wildfowling.
- NatureScot will provide a report to the Scottish Government once the review has been completed for Ministers to consider whether any changes to the Schedule are required.

Background - Regulated Wildfowling Sites

- Findhorn Bay is an LNR and also part of the Moray and Nairn Coast Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar site and Culbin Forest, Culbin Sands and Findhorn Bay SSSI. The Findhorn Bay LNR Management Committee delivers this management role on the bay for Moray Council

- Montrose Basin LNR have introduced byelaws and permit systems to help manage wildfowling
- Eden Estuary SSSI, near St Andrews, Fife Council set up the byelaws on the local authority-managed LNR.
- Caerlaverock, a National Nature Reserve (NNR), Controlled wildfowling over a designated zone within part of the NNR Is allowed by permit under byelaws The wildfowling scheme Is overseen by the Caerlaverock Panel and its members represent local wildfowlers, the land owner, and national shooting and conservation bodies.
- Wigton Bay LNR - Machars Action Ltd administers the issue of wildfowling permits on behalf of the Dumfries and Galloway Ranger Service.
- Aberlady Bay LNR - East Lothian Council operates a byelaw/permit system.

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Slide 3 – Puffin: What SG is doing to address other threats to Scotland’s seabirds

Scotland is home to globally important populations of seabirds, including Northern gannets, Manx shearwaters, puffins and great skuas. The threats to these species don’t just come from invasive species, but also from a range of other pressures.

As you will know, 2021 and 2022 saw the UK's largest outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza to date, which has had a significant impact on our wild birds, including Scotland's internationally important seabird populations.

Action is being taken by many organisations across Scotland to tackle this outbreak and ensure we are ready to respond to future outbreaks. Specifically, we have coordinated efforts by RSPB and other partners for the 2023 colony counts, which will help understand the extent to which colonies have been affected by avian influenza.

We are also continuing to monitor the disease through site specific surveillance coordinated by NatureScot, in addition to the GB Wild Bird surveillance programme by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. And we are developing an avian influenza wild birds response plan with the support of the Avian Influenza task force, which sets out how we will respond if there are future outbreaks in wild birds in Scotland.

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HPAI and wider measures for seabirds – July 2023

Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

The 2021/22 HPAI outbreak affected wild birds, including internationally important seabird populations. Data collected through the Animal and Plant Health Agency GB surveillance programme (1 October 2021 and 30 September 2022) recorded a total of 603 wild birds across 34 species and 153 locations in Scotland as testing positive for HPAI. The seabird species with the greatest number of positive test results were gannet, great skua, common guillemot and gull species. NatureScot also established a separate reporting network for dead birds found at colonies across Scotland. Between 4 April and 11 September 2022, approximately 20,500 dead seabirds across 160 locations were reported to NatureScot, with the highest mortality reported in gannets, great skuas, common guillemots, kittiwakes, terns and large gulls. While mortality occurred across Scotland, Bass Rock (gannet) and Foula (great skua) had the highest reported mortality.

Targeted colony-wide surveys (supported through the provision of funding from the Scottish Government) are currently underway at key locations around Scotland which will provide critical information on the status of seabird populations and help quantify the impacts of HPAI. While the counts are ongoing and results from many of these surveys will not be available until late summer/early autumn 2023, results from great skua survey show 208 Apparently Occupied Territories have been recorded from Hermaness NNR this year (a decline of 78% since 2018), and 70 Apparently Occupied Territories have been recorded from Noss NNR (a decline of 85% since 2018)

In terms of the current HPAI season (2022/23), since 1 October 2022, a total of 136 wild birds, across 46 locations and 22 species have tested positive for HPAI in Scotland. No new positive cases in wild birds were reported between March and June 2023. Between 23 and 27 June 13 wild birds tested positive for avian influenza. These included 2 white-tailed eagles (these were wild birds in captivity at the time for relocation), 4 black-headed gulls, 4 sandwich terns and 3 unspecified gull species. Most of the positive cases have been from wildfowl and raptors. It should be noted that:

- there have been recent trends across northern Eurasia of black headed gull die-offs and, substantial mortality due to HPAI has been reported in this species from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. This had led to concern that black headed gull may act as a HPAI bridging species to seabirds, as the breeding season progresses.
- on 16 June 2023, 500 dead gulls were reported at Sanquhar, Dumfries and Galloway and, around 100 dead gulls reported from two other sites: a gas substation at Elvanfoot, South Lanarkshire and a Scottish Water Reservoir at Carron Valley, Stirlingshire. A selection of samples have been taken for HPAI testing.
- there are increasing reports of dead seabirds washing up along the east coast of Scotland. For example, (mainly) guillemots in the Forth region, kittiwakes at Fowlsheugh Nature Reserve, and sandwich terns (approx. 200) and black headed gulls at the NatureScot reserve at Forvie. These cases have been reported to the GB Surveillance programme and some of these birds were recovered for HPAI testing. Intelligence from NatureScot is that mortality of guillemots in Germany and kittiwakes in Norway has been reported and attributed to HPAI. No positive cases were found in Scottish sampled guillemots and kittiwakes, although some sandwich terns and black headed gulls tested positive, as described above. It is also worth noting that there

have been reports of record-breaking sea surface temperatures around the UK although it is too early to say whether this is having an impact. We will update Ministers on any results from testing.

Management action being taken to minimise impacts of HPAI where possible

HPAI is a highly infectious disease and, once present in wild bird populations, there are currently few management tools available that are likely to be effective in controlling or reducing it; a conclusion supported in a recently published report on HPAI by the Scientific Advisory Group for NatureScot. However, action can be taken in relation to biosecurity and minimising disturbance during an outbreak and, the Scottish Government continues to work with partners, including through the Scottish HPAI wild birds task force, to ensure a coordinated approach to monitoring and responding to the impact of HPAI in wild birds. This includes developing a Scottish HPAI in wild birds' response plan, which sets out the approach that Scottish Government and its agencies will take to response to an outbreak of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland. This was shared with Ministers on 5 July 2023. Drawing on the response plan, the following actions have been taken this year:

- Updated guidance for local authorities, landowners and wildlife rescue centres regarding the reporting, collection and safe disposal of dead wild birds has been developed drawing on a risk assessment developed by EPIC earlier this year. Current advice is that carcasses should be left in situ, unless part of a research study (for example, Natural England are undergoing trials of carcass removal to test its efficacy), but this will be kept under continuous review based on the available evidence.
- The development of a licensing framework that will inform decisions on the suspension of licenced activities such as research and bird-ringing, with the aim of minimising disturbance to wild birds. Following the initial observations of lower great skuas numbers at colonies in Shetland this year, a temporary suspension of ringing and research activities has been put in place for this species across Scotland to minimise unnecessary disturbance or stress to these populations. NatureScot also continue to review gull licensing where these are issued for public safety reasons.
- In terms of access to sites, it has been determined that it is highly unlikely that human activities around a site will increase the impact of an outbreak on wild birds so there is currently no intention to limit public access to seabird colonies in 2023, although this will be kept under review. Decisions on all activities will be taken on a site-by-site basis and based on current available information.
- NatureScot have updated their guidance to land managers which sets out steps that site managers can take to limit the spread of HPAI by human activities. This guidance covers any site where significant numbers of wild birds gather to breed, feed or roost, such as islands, shorelines, wetlands, and inland waterbodies, and includes protected areas and non-designated sites.
- Biosecurity is under continuous review and visitors to colonies are advised to check and clean footwear, outdoor clothing and equipment. Most sites have footbaths or disinfectant mats to be used when visitors arrive on an island where there is a seabird colony and before they depart.

However, Scottish Government and its agencies continue to keep its response and decision-making flexible and under review based on the best available scientific and animal welfare advice.

Wider action that can be taken for seabirds

[redacted]

The developing Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy will provide the opportunity to take forward action across these pressures. This will bring benefits to seabird populations, including those species most impacted by HPAI, thereby building resilience in Scotland's seabird populations. [redacted]

In terms of specific action to mitigate the impact of HPAI on some seabird populations, the impacts of HPAI and any potential mitigating action should be considered in the broader context of the need to act across the range of pressures and build resilience in Scotland's seabird populations. [Redacted]. It is possible that there may be some species where specific local action may be required, and these actions will be informed by the results of the targeted surveys currently underway.

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Next steps

We will continue to work with the Task Force and partners to respond to the current outbreak of HPAI in wild bird populations, drawing on the HPAI response plan as we progress through the 2022/23 season and into autumn. Action is being taken where possible, based on the most up to date advice, to minimise impacts on seabirds, noting that HPAI is a highly infectious disease and once present in wild bird populations, there are currently few management tools available that are likely to be effective in controlling or reducing it. We will keep the Minister updated regularly.

[redacted]

However, there are pressures where more can be done and the Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy will be instrumental in identifying those actions, taking account of the impact of HPAI. [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Emails submission seeking approval to publish the Scottish Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan in July.

From: [Redacted]; on behalf of; Minister for Energy and the Environment MinisterEE@gov.scot
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 10:58am
To: [Redacted]; Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>; Sheila Voas <Sheila.Voas@gov.scot>; Director of Marine <directormarine@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Deputy Director Nature Division <DDND@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Caroline Cowan <Caroline.Cowan@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Diarmuid O'Neill <Diarmuid.O'Neill@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; MD Communications <MD.Communications@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Submission - Seeking approval to publish the Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan in July

This email is for the official record and confirms a Ministerial Decision. This email must be placed in the official record (eRDM) by your team [in line with SG records management policy.](#)

Good Morning [Redacted],

Thanks for this.

Ms Martin is content with the recommendation.

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Minister for Energy and the Environment – Gillian Martin

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | [Redacted]

All emails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Office do not keep official records of such emails or attachments.

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, July 5, 2023 3:01 PM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands <CabSecRALRI@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity <MinisterforGSCEB@gov.scot>; Sheila Voas <Sheila.Voas@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; DG Net Zero <DGNetZero@gov.scot>; Deputy Director Nature Division <DDND@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Caroline Cowan

<Caroline.Cowan@gov.scot>; [Redacted]; [Redacted]; Diarmuid O'Neill
<Diarmuid.O'Neill@gov.scot>; [Redacted] ; Leanne Dobson <Leanne.Dobson@gov.scot>; Kate Higgins <Kate.Higgins@gov.scot>; Harry Huyton <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZeroandRuralAffairs@gov.scot>; MS Communications <MS.Communications@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>

Subject: Submission - Seeking approval to publish the Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan in July

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a submission sent on behalf of [Redacted] seeking your approval to publish the Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan. We are working with Communications colleagues regarding the timing for publication, and subject to Ministerial approval, we would propose to publish the Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan in July.

I attach a copy of the Response Plan for the Minister's approval.

Kind regards,
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted], Marine Directorate

Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

E: [\[Redacted\]](mailto:)



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HPAI response plan launch briefing – Ms Martin – 10 August 2023

What	A visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre to launch the Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan and meet with stakeholders involved in our HPAI response.
Where	Scottish Seabird Centre The Harbour Harbour Terrace North Berwick EH39 4SS
When	11 August 2023 11:00 – 12:00
Key message(s)	<p>I am thankful to the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force for their efforts to tackle and monitor the spread of HPAI in wild birds.</p> <p>I am grateful to the Scottish public for their assistance and encourage members of the public to continue to report sightings of dead birds to the GB Helpline.</p> <p>While limited action can be taken to prevent the spread of this virus in wild birds, we can take action to ensure that we are supporting their recovery by addressing the various pressures that they face. We are progressing work in this space, and will be consulting on our Seabird Strategy in early 2024.</p>
Who	<p>Susan Davies, CEO of Scottish Seabird Centre.</p> <p>Members of the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force from RSPB and NatureScot.</p> <p>Members of East Lothian Council Countryside Rangers team who have been responding to cases locally.</p>
Why	An opportunity to showcase the positive steps that the Scottish Government is taking to support the conservation of wild birds.
[redacted]	<p>[redacted]</p> <p>[redacted]</p> <p>[redacted]</p>

Briefing contents	Annex A: [redacted] Annex B: [redacted] Annex C: Top Brief Annex D: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in wild birds Annex E: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in captive birds Annex F: [redacted] Annex G: [redacted] Annex H: [redacted] Annex I: [redacted] Annex J: [redacted] Annex K: [redacted]
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[redacted]

The Scottish Government has published its Scottish wild bird HPAI response plan today. The plan sets out the approach that the Scottish Government and its agencies will take to respond to outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds, including wildfowl and seabirds. The plan was developed by Scottish Government and NatureScot in consultation with the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force, drawing on information from the 2021/22 and 2022/23 outbreak. The plan is not setting out new policies or processes, but outlining the processes that the Scottish Government and its agencies have taken to respond to the outbreak in wild birds over the last two years. A similar plan was published for England and Wales in 2022.

Top lines

- The Scottish Government is taking the current situation very seriously and continues to work with partner organisations through the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force to monitor and report the situation where action can be taken recognizing the importance of communication and coordination in preparedness and responses.
- I am therefore pleased to announce today that we have published the Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan.
- The plan sets out the approach that the Scottish Government and its partners have taken to respond to the current, and any future outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in wild birds in Scotland.
- It also provides guidance to regulators, the general public, those involved in animal rescue, researchers and eNGOs on issues relating to HPAI in wild birds.
- The plan encourages the public to report findings of dead wild birds online using the online reporting system or by calling the GB helpline.
- Dead wild birds can carry a number of diseases, therefore the plan advises that they should not be touched, and should be left in situ. At present there is no scientific evidence that the removal of carcasses significantly reduces the risk of onward spread of the current strain amongst wild birds in high density areas.
- The response plan provides guidance for land owners and local authorities on how to safely dispose of dead wild bird carcasses, including recommended PPE. There is no obligation on landowners or local authorities to remove dead wild birds when they are not causing a public hygiene risk. However, it is recognised that members of the public, landowners and local authorities may choose, at their own discretion and cost, to collect and dispose of dead wild birds.
- The Plan is a live document and continue to be subject to review, taking into account lessons learned, policy developments, the latest scientific advice and experiences from operational partners and stakeholders.
- While being launched today we have already used the plan to help us, both within government and out with, to respond to this unprecedented outbreak in wild birds.
- I am very grateful for all of the hard work of all agencies involved in the response to this outbreak and the manner in which government and voluntary bodies have come together.

Background

- The HPAI outbreak has had a significant impact on Scotland's internationally important wild bird populations, including barnacle geese, great skua and gannets.

- In 2022, NatureScot established the Scottish Avian Influenza in wild birds Task Force, which brings together colleagues from Scottish Government, NatureScot, the RSPB, the British Trust for Ornithology, Public Health Scotland, and Local Authorities to coordinate our joint response to the outbreak.
- Following a call for guidance to be developed, the Scottish Government and NatureScot started work on the development of a HPAI in wild birds response plan.
- The plan is not setting out new policies or processes, but outlining the processes that the Scottish Government and its agencies have taken to respond to the outbreak in wild birds over the last two years.

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Issue: The 2021/22 season saw the UK's largest outbreak of avian influenza to date, which affected wild bird populations, including some internationally important seabird populations. Cases in wild birds began to increase again in July 2023. The Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.

Top lines

- The Scottish Government is taking the current situation very seriously and continues to work with partner organisations through the Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force to monitor and report the situation where action can be taken recognizing the importance of communication and coordination in preparedness and responses.
- Avian influenza is a highly infectious disease, and while there is little that can be done to limit the spread within seabird colonies, action can be taken to reduce the risk of onward transmission from infected colonies to uninfected colonies and other locations, and to minimise additional stress on potentially infected birds.
- I am pleased to announce that today we published the Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan that sets out how the Scottish Government and its partners will respond to any further outbreaks of HPAI in wild birds in Scotland.
- Members of the public should avoid touching sick or dead wild birds. The Response Plan includes guidance on who to contact to report dead birds.
- The Response Plan is intended to be a live document and it will be updated regularly to reflect emerging evidence and issues.
- While the Response Plan is focused on coordinating our immediate response to the HPAI outbreak, we recognize that further action is needed to support our wild bird populations.
- That is why we are taking action to address the range of pressures that seabirds face. This includes our recently launched consultation to close the sandeel fishery in all Scottish waters, and the Development of a Scottish Seabird Conservation Strategy.
- We have contributed funding to RSPB-led 2023 colony counts at key Special Protection Areas following 2021/2022 HPAI impacts for species of high Offshore Wind Consenting Risk and Conservation Concern that appear to have experienced high mortality.
- We have two further projects currently out to tender monitoring seabird colonies and tracking seabirds to investigate HPAI impacts in relation to offshore wind.

Wildfowling and HPAI (winter months)

Issue: Members of the public and some eNGO's called for Scottish Government to bring forward a measure to stop the shooting of wildfowl species during winter 2021 and 2022 in locations where some geese species were infected.

In winter 2021 barnacle geese on the Solway Firth were hit particularly badly by HPAI. Barnacle geese are a protected species although some stakeholders were concerned about the disturbance caused to the barnacle geese by those shooting species which could be shot and were not infected.

Lines to take:

- The increased risk that shooting represents generally, in terms of the spread of avian influenza through the further movement of wild species, is thought to be low as it is believed that disturbance generally results in localised changes only. Along with a wide range of other factors, this remains under continuous review.
- A decision to seek voluntary restraint, on all activities that could have an impact on the disturbance of birds, was taken in some locations in winter 2021 and 2022 to alert the local communities to a potential issue and to allow time for further information to be gathered. The mortalities of pinkfooted geese as recorded in Findhorn, are not of major conservation concern.
- The risk to further transmission from activities such as wildfowling is low. The advice to show restraint, in a relevant activity, where birds are showing signs of stress will still be applicable as we head in to winter 2023.
- As geese return in the autumn NatureScot will continue to review the situation and ensure action is taken where appropriate and necessary.
- We have been instrumental in setting up a pan-flyway contact group to share intelligence across the different countries that geese use.

The Scottish Avian Influenza Task Force

- The Avian Influenza Task Force was set up in July 2022 by NatureScot to co-ordinate a national response to the avian influenza crisis.
- NatureScot leads the group which draws on experience from across government, conservation organisations, local authorities and the research community to drive forward a collective response to the crisis.
- Key priorities include planning for an effective response to potential future outbreaks and variants, taking action to help protect and restore our wild bird populations and improve their resilience.
- The Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan was developed in collaboration with the Task Force.
- The Task Force has facilitated enhanced disease surveillance in wild bird populations, through extension of the GB Dead Wild Bird Surveillance Scheme to priority species within Special Protected Areas
- The Task Force set up sub-groups to inform guidance on (i) carcass handling and disposal and (ii) wild bird surveillance and monitoring.
- A mortality surveillance network (comprising reserve staff from NatureScot, RSPB, National Trust Scotland and volunteers) was set up to provide an early warning system of impacts on wild bird populations at key bird sites across Scotland.

[redacted]

Annex E Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in captive birds

Issue: The UK is currently experiencing the worst ever outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). There have been 26 Scottish infected premises (IP) since 01 October 2022, with 10 of these located in Aberdeenshire.

08/09 August 2023: The three most recent cases in Scotland were confirmed in a small backyard flock of chickens at a premises near Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and in a commercial flock of pheasants near Portsoy, Aberdeenshire on 08 August, and in a small commercial free-range

chicken layer flock in Lochcarron, Highlands on 09 August. Disease control zones were applied around each HPAI H5N1 infected premises.

20 July 2023: The most recent English case was confirmed at a premises in Kent on 20 July. Disease control zones were applied, which incorporate Folkestone, the Channel Tunnel, and routes into Dover. It is unclear at this point what impact this may have on trade of poultry and poultry products.

04 July: The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high.

Top Lines

- The Scottish Government has acted swiftly and put in place a 3 km Protection Zone and 10 km Surveillance Zone around most infected premises (where required). The most recent Scottish case was on 09 August 2023.
- The risk to the general public's health from avian influenza is still very low. However, the risk to people with intensive exposure to infected birds is considered to be low.
- Food Standards Scotland advise that avian influenzas pose a very low food safety risk for consumers, and it does not affect the consumption of poultry products, including eggs.
- The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was lifted by Scottish Ministers on 04 July 2023, and across GB simultaneously. Following a risk assessment, the risk of exposure to poultry and other captive birds from avian influenza H5 was reduced to low, but the risk to wild birds remains high. Low risk does not mean no risk.
- The Scottish Government is keeping the situation under constant review. However, the current evidence does not currently justify imposing a housing order in Scotland. The decision on whether a housing order is introduced is a matter for Scotland's Chief Veterinary Officer and follows the analysis of a wide range of available evidence.
- This includes numbers and geographical distribution of poultry cases, epidemiological reports on risk pathways, risk assessments on disease risk level, alongside case numbers and geographical distribution of wild bird findings. This is balanced with published data on the risk reduction of biosecurity measures, compared to risk reduction from housing, alongside welfare problems following housing, and is augmented by international disease monitoring and the situation in other countries, especially across Great Britain.
- A judgment is made from a veterinary perspective on the expected benefits of introducing a housing order against any potential consequences.
- All poultry gatherings that are currently banned remain prohibited. This includes local shows.

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News release – avian flu response plan – 11 August 2023

Environment Minister thanks partners for avian flu response

Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan published.

Environment Minister Gillian Martin has thanked organisations and partners in Scotland for their efforts to respond to the ongoing avian flu outbreak in wild birds.

Speaking on a visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre in East Lothian, Ms Martin said that the last two years had been some of the most challenging on record for wild bird populations and the people who care for them.

In the year to 30 September 2022, surveillance data collected by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) showed avian flu was present in 34 wild bird species in Scotland. In the spring and summer of 2022, a total of approximately 20,500 dead seabirds across 160 locations were reported to NatureScot.

It comes as the Scottish Government today published a new Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan which sets out the multi-agency approach to monitoring and mitigating the spread of the virus.

The plan provides guidance to regulators, the general public, those involved in animal rescue, researchers and academics and environmental non-government bodies on issues relating to avian flu in wild birds.

Ms Martin said:

“The avian flu outbreak in wild bird populations across the globe is extremely sad and has been difficult for us all to witness.

“In most cases there is no alternative but to let the disease run its course, however the effectiveness of our multi-agency response in monitoring the spread of the virus can help build our understanding of the outbreak and what mitigation measures might be helpful.

“The publication of this Plan is part of our ongoing efforts to co-ordinate the response in Scotland and work collaboratively to monitor the spread of the virus, which is so crucial for the health of wild bird populations.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank people across a variety of different government agencies, organisations, charities, local councils and the general public who have been working tirelessly over the last couple of years to respond to this unprecedented avian flu outbreak.”

Background

Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Response Plan [[LINK](#)]

Read about the [latest avian influenza outbreak situation in Scotland](#), including details of the current disease response plan.

Advice for members of the public, farmers and landowners on [what to do if you find dead or sick wild birds](#) is published on the Scottish Government website.

Note of meeting – Scottish Seabird Centre visit – 11 August 2023

From: [redacted]@gov.scot

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:38 AM

To: Jesus Gallego; Minister for Energy and the Environment; Sheila Voas; Director of Marine; Deputy

Direct Nature Division; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Hi [redacted],

I've included a note of the meeting below. Apologies for missing this earlier.

All the best, [redacted]

Note of Ms Martin visit to the Scottish Seabird Centre
11:00-12:00 11 August 2023

Ms Martin visited the Scottish Seabird Centre to launch the Scottish Wild Bird Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Response Plan and meet with stakeholders involved in our HPAI response.

Stakeholders present were:

Susan Davies	CEO, Scottish Seabird Centre
Colin Galbraith	Chair, NatureScot
[redacted]	Policy and Advice Officer, NatureScot
[redacted]	Marine Ornithologist, NatureScot
Helen McLachlan	Head of Marine Policy, RSPB
[redacted]	Countryside rangers team, East Lothian Council
[redacted]	Countryside rangers team, East Lothian Council
[redacted]	Bass Rock landing guide, Scottish Seabird Centre

Ms Martin thanked those involved in the local and national response to avian influenza, and asked questions about how the response was carried out on the ground. During the visit Ms Martin expressed interest in returning to the Seabird Centre to visit the Bass Rock gannet colony.

Ms Martin signed the Scottish Seabird Centre's pledge board to commit to helping to improve the environment:

'I pledge to support Scotland's internationally important seabird species and to tackle biodiversity loss in Scotland by ensuring that Scotland's seas and coastal ecosystems are healthy, productive systems that can support seabird recovery.'

Ms Martin was interviewed by STV about the launch of the response plan. Members of NatureScot and East Lothian Council were interviewed by STV about their role in the response to HPAI.

[redacted]

Policy Manager, Marine Environment Portfolio, Marine Directorate
Scottish Government, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ

E: [redacted]@gov.scot



From: Jesus Gallego

Sent: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 9:27 AM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment; [redacted]@gov.scot; Sheila Voas; Director of Marine;

Deputy Director Nature Division; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Caroline Cowan; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: 11:00-12:00 Visit: launch of Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan

[redacted]

Apologies for missing this, I will send a note asap

Best regards

Jesus Gallego BVMS MRCVS

Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (Scotland)

Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate

The Scottish Government Saughton House, P Spur Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD.

Tel: 0300 244 9796

Mob: 07810 507049

Email: jesus.gallego@gov.scot

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Energy and the Environment

Sent: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 3:42 PM

To: [redacted]@gov.scot; Sheila Voas; Director of Marine; Deputy Director Nature Division; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Caroline Cowan; [redacted]@gov.scot; Jesus Gallego; [redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: Minister for Energy and the Environment
Subject: RE: 11:00-12:00 Visit: launch of Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan

Good afternoon,

Apologies if this has been missed, but I don't believe we received a meeting note for this visit– grateful if this could be with PO by 10am Thursday.

Many thanks,

[redacted]

Assistant Private Secretary to Minister for Energy and the Environment – Gillian Martin MSP
MinisterEE@gov.scot
The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

-----Original Appointment-----

From: [redacted] On Behalf Of Minister for Energy and the Environment

Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 9:20 AM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment; Gillian Martin; Martin G (Gillian), MSP; [redacted];

Sheila Voas; Director of Marine; Deputy Director Nature Division; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted];

[redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; Caroline Cowan; [redacted]; Kate Higgins; Harry Harker; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs; MS Communications; [redacted]; Jesus Gallego; [redacted]

Subject: 11:00-12:00 Visit: launch of Scottish Wild Bird HPAI Response Plan

When: 11 August 2023 11:00-12:00 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London. Where: Scottish Seabird Centre, North Berwick

****Please do not forward on this invite - if you require anyone else to be invited please let Private Office know. The Ministers diary is not shared with externals, officials will need to share details separately.****

Background: to launch the Scottish highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild birds response plan

Attendees: Scottish Seabird Centre

Officials: [redacted]

Please prepare briefing using the appropriate templates and guidance from Saltire and send to Private Office by 4pm Monday 7 August.

Official support is expected at all meetings and engagements unless otherwise agreed with Private Office. Two officials per meeting is sufficient, however if you think there needs to be more then please contact Private Office to discuss. Please note that there is a requirement for an official note of all meetings to be produced withing 72 hours of the meeting – this should be done by the most appropriate official supporting the Minister in line with published guidance.

If there will be external stakeholders attending a Scottish Government building (not Parliament), please submit visitor forms as appropriate.

Please call to discuss if you have any queries or are likely to miss the deadline.

[redacted]

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