General licence to arrange a fair, market, show, exhibition or other gathering involving the collecting together of birds in Scotland (EXD 178 (AI) (S))

This licence is made under article 4(1) of the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Order 2007 ("the Order") and permits the collection of birds at fairs, markets, shows, exhibitions or other gatherings subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule.

A veterinary risk assessment has been carried out in accordance with article 4(2) of the Order.

The Veterinary Inspector is satisfied that, under the conditions of this licence, certain bird gatherings and the transit of birds to and from those gatherings will not significantly increase the risk of transmission of avian influenza virus (in particular of virus subtype H5N1).

This licence applies in Scotland, including in the higher risk areas (HRAs) identified by Scottish Ministers under Article 3 of Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1136 ("the Decision") and in accordance with Article 4(4)(e) of the Decision, which permits, subject to the compliance by the licensee with the conditions in the schedule, the gathering of birds in the HRAs.

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

This licence is valid from 12:00 **noon on 24 June 2026** and revokes and replaces EXD 178 (AI) (S), which came into force from 12:00 noon on 21 April 2026.

This licence may be varied, suspended or revoked at any time.

This licence has been issued by the Scottish Ministers and applies to Scotland.

Signed: **Jesus Gallego**

Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer Scotland and Veterinary Inspector

Date: 24 June 2026 Time: 12:00 (noon)

A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers

Schedule of licence conditions

1. The person arranging the gathering is the licensee and is responsible for ensuring the conditions in this licence are complied with.

2. The licensee must take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of avian influenza onto, within, and off the premises or vehicle where the gathering is held.

3. The licensee must distribute biosecurity advice in advance of such a gathering to all participants that must include:

(a) a recommendation that birds should be inspected for signs of illness before travelling to any gathering;

(b) a recommendation that any birds travelling from a gathering should be kept separate from wild birds, isolated from other birds and mammals at that premises and monitored for signs of illness for at least 14 days.

4. The licensee must advise participants that they must comply with the requirement to provide notification to the Scottish Ministers under article 5 of the Order (as amended by the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2024) in relation to premises in Scotland at which they keep birds, by means of registration of premises on the Scottish Kept Bird Register (unless the exception from the requirement to provide notification in article 5A of the Order [as amended] applies in relation to the birds).

5. The licensee must advise participants in advance of such a gathering that, if there is suspicion of a notifiable avian disease at or near the event, they will be legally required to adhere to any restrictions served by APHA on the premises, including a prohibition on the removal of their birds from the premises, if so imposed.

6. The licensee must advise participants in advance of such a gathering to cleanse and disinfect any cages, crates, baskets or other containers used in attending the gathering (or any vehicle used to transport birds to and from the gathering) as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the gathering and before being used for any other birds.

7. The licensee must have in place written contingency arrangements that explain what should happen if there is a notifiable avian disease incident at or near the event. The plan must include details of:

i. how birds suspected of notifiable avian disease will be separated from other birds;

ii. how birds will be kept at the premises until an APHA Veterinary Inspector has given instructions for birds to leave the premises, if notifiable avian disease is suspected at the gathering; and

iii. how birds will be kept and cared for at the premises if movements off the premises are restricted because the gathering subsequently becomes located in one of the following:

a) a protection zone;

(b) a surveillance zone;

as declared-

i. in Scotland under the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003,

ii. in England under the Diseases of Poultry (England) Order 2003

or

(c) a protection zone;

(d) a surveillance zone;

(e) a restricted zone;

(f) a temporary control zone;

(g) a temporary movement restriction zone;

(h) a low pathogenic avian influenza restricted zone;

as declared—

i. in Scotland under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006

ii. in England under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006 or:

or;

(i) a wild bird control area

(j) a wild bird monitoring area

as declared—

i. in Scotland under the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (Scotland) Order 2007

ii. in England under the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006

8. The licensee must ensure that:

i. no birds are allowed to enter a gathering unless the participant declares that they do not originate from premises located in one of the following:

a) a protection zone;

(b) a surveillance zone;

as declared-

i. in Scotland under the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003,

ii. in England under the Diseases of Poultry (England) Order 2003

iii. in Wales under the Diseases of Poultry (Wales) Order 2003;

or

(c) a protection zone;

(d) a surveillance zone;

(e) a restricted zone;

(f) a temporary control zone;

(g) a temporary movement restriction zone;

(h) a low pathogenic avian influenza restricted zone;

as declared—

i. in Scotland under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006

ii. in England under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No.2) Order 2006

iii. in Wales under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Wales) (No.2) Order 2006

or;

(i) a wild bird control area

(j) a wild bird monitoring area

as declared—

i. in Scotland under the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (Scotland) Order 2007

ii. in England under the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (England) Order 2006

iii. in Wales under the Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (Wales) Order 2006

ii. when they arrive at the event, all birds must remain isolated from all other birds on the event site until all birds have been separately inspected by a suitably knowledgeable bird keeper, seller or judge, designated by the licensee, to identify any clinical signs that raise suspicion of notifiable avian disease.

9. The licensee must notify the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) at least 7 calendar days prior to the event. Contact details for APHA are:

APHA Field Services (Inverness)
Longman House
28 Longman Road
Inverness, IV1 1SF

Telephone: 0300 0600 709
Email: APHAScotlandShows@apha.gov.uk

10. The notification must include:

i. the date (or range of dates) upon which the bird gathering will take place;

ii. the location of the gathering (including address and postcode);

iii. details of the licensee (full name and full contact details);

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

v. the purpose of the gathering.

The licensee must provide details of any person who has conferred the licensee with a right to use the premises for the purpose of the gathering (to the extent known to the licensee) upon any request to do so by APHA.

11. Subject to APHA approval, where a series of multiple, scheduled gatherings are to take place, notification to APHA may be made annually, with such notification providing the name of the licensee, the anticipated dates and anticipated number of birds at each of the gatherings, in addition to requirements at paragraph 8 and the records required in paragraph 11.

12. Any changes to the information provided that occurs between notification and the event itself, must also be notified to APHA as soon as possible.

13. The licensee must make a record of all people who bring birds to a gathering, or take such birds from a gathering, and keep the record for at least three months following the end of the gathering. The record must include at least the following information:

a) Full name
b) Home address (including postcode)
c) Telephone number
d) Number and type(s) of birds
e) Details of the locations that birds came from, and went to after the gathering
f) Scottish Kept Bird Register (SKBR) Unique Reference Number (URN) (if applicable).

14. The licensee must not allow any cage, crate, basket or other container onto premises being used for a gathering that is visibly contaminated with bird droppings, bedding or other material of bird origin, other than that from, or provided for, the birds brought to the gathering, and must make this requirement known in advance to all those bringing birds to the gathering.

15. The licensee must also:

i. ensure that cleansing and disinfection facilities, such as hand-washing facilities, disinfectant mats and foot-dips (where appropriate) are available to gathering attendees on site, and good biosecurity practices are encouraged;

ii. report any signs suggestive of notifiable avian disease to APHA immediately;

iii. if the licensee makes such a report, ensure that all attendees and bird owners are aware:

- of any and all resulting restrictions that may be placed upon the premises by APHA, including the requirement that no birds are allowed to leave the premises until APHA have confirmed that doing so is permitted;
- that attendees and bird owners failing to comply with APHA restrictions placed upon the premises may be committing a criminal offence.

iv. ensure that any feed to which captive birds had access, and all bedding, droppings, other material of bird origin and other contaminants derived from birds at the gathering and which are left on the premises when the gathering has ended are destroyed or treated so as to remove the risk of transmission of disease (see Explanatory Notes 11).

v. in the case of impervious surfaces, cleanse and disinfect those parts of the premises contaminated by such materials;

vi. if the gathering is held on unpaved ground, not allow such ground to be used for another bird gathering or for keeping birds for a period of twenty-one days;

vii. ensure anyone seen to be visibly contaminated with faecal material, feathers or other material of avian origin is refused entry to the bird gathering area until such contamination has been removed and disinfection applied, or the person has changed into clean clothing and footwear and has washed their hands;

viii. subject to condition ix. below, ensure any cages, crates, baskets or other containers not removed from the premises (or from any vehicle on which the gathering is held, such as a vehicle used to transport racing pigeons to the start of a race) by those attending the gathering are cleansed and disinfected as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the gathering, and in any case before they are used again; and

ix. destroy, by appropriate means, any cages, crates, baskets or other containers not removed from the premises (or from any vehicle on which the gathering is held) by those attending the gathering if they are made of a porous material that cannot be cleansed and disinfected.

x. in relation to any vehicle on which a gathering is held (such as a vehicle used to transport racing pigeons to the start of a race), ensure

that the area of the vehicle which had contact with the birds is cleansed and disinfected.

Failure to observe a measure required in this licence is an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981. The penalty on conviction of an offence under this section is a maximum of six months imprisonment or a fine not exceeding Level 5 on the standard scale or both.

Explanatory Notes

1. Definitions, as provided under The Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Order 2007:

   "other captive bird" means any bird, other than poultry, kept in captivity and including any bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions or competitions (such as ornamental birds and racing pigeons);

   "poultry" means all birds that are reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat, or eggs for consumption, the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of these categories of birds;

   "premises" includes any land, building or other place;

2. This licence permits the gathering of birds (including such birds which hatch from eggs at a gathering) which include the following:

   - Anseriformes (including ducks, geese and swans)
   - Columbiformes (including doves and pigeons); Passerines (including finches and canaries);
   - Psittaciformes (including parrots, macaws, cockatiels);
   - Birds of prey (including hawks, eagles, kites, ospreys, falcons and caracaras);
   - Galliformes (including turkeys, chickens, quail, partridges and pheasants);
   - Ratites (including ostriches, emus and rheas);
   - Strigiformes (including owls); and

- Racing pigeon gatherings for pigeon racing within the UK, Republic of Ireland and the Crown Dependencies.

3. A gathering is an occasion at which poultry and/or other captive birds are brought together from different locations for any purpose, and afterwards either go back to their original locations or go on to more than one new location, and includes:

- a fair, market, show, sale or exhibition;
- the collection of pigeons from different lofts on a vehicle for pigeon racing; and
- hen 'hotels' (when birds are temporarily located somewhere other than their usual premises).

4. The following are not considered to be gatherings and do not, therefore, need to be licensed –

- a collection of birds at a licensed slaughterhouse for slaughter;
- a collection of birds that have all come from the same single premises (a dispersal sale or 're-homing');
- an event involving only eggs (no live birds are present or become present);
- birds that are brought together from different locations, but where no birds move off the premises within 13 days of the last bird arriving on the premises;
- catching-up of wild game birds (where they have come from multiple locations but are then moved to a single location afterwards, and remain there for breeding or other purposes); and
- any occasion when all the birds brought together are from the same epidemiological group.

Here, "the same epidemiological group" means that because of the way the birds are kept or managed on a day-to-day basis (e.g. common housing, tended by the same personnel), they are deemed to be of the same health status and of the same level of risk with regards to the introduction of notifiable avian disease.

5. Under article 11(8) and paragraphs 4 and 8 of schedule 2 of the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003, notwithstanding the terms of this licence, no person shall hold any fair, market, show or other gathering of poultry, captive birds or racing pigeons in an

infected area declared under article 11(1) or (2) of that order (unless otherwise provided in the declaration of an infected area made by the Scottish Ministers).

6. Article 13 (racing pigeons) of the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003 requires that:

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

(2) Every person who owns or keeps racing pigeons shall keep a record of every race or show for which any such racing pigeons are entered."

7. Article 14 (cleansing and disinfection) of the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003 requires that:

"(1) Any person in charge of premises upon which poultry or racing pigeons are or have been exposed for sale or exhibited shall thoroughly cleanse and disinfect those premises, their fittings and any receptacle used for the exposure or exhibition of such birds as soon as practicable after use and in any event before they are used again.

(2) A veterinary inspector or an inspector of a local authority may, by notice served on the person in charge of any premises or vehicle on or in which any birds are or have been, require that person to cleanse and disinfect the premises or vehicle and any fittings or receptacle in such manner as that inspector may require and may prohibit the movement into the premises or vehicle of birds until the cleansing and disinfection has been completed to the satisfaction of the inspector.

(3) Without prejudice to the bringing of proceedings under the 1981 Act, where a notice under this article is not complied with, any person authorised by the Scottish Ministers or the local authority may enter the premises or vehicle to which the notice relates and carry out the work of cleansing and disinfection

required and the cost of such work shall be recoverable as a debt from the person on whom the notice was served.

(4) For the purposes of this article “cleansing” includes the disposal of all litter, droppings and other matter in a manner which does not present a risk of the spread of disease.”

8. Disinfectants approved by the appropriate authority for use against poultry diseases in Great Britain are listed at:

   https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it

9. Anyone in possession of any bird or bird carcase that they suspect may be infected with avian influenza virus, paramyxovirus 1 or Newcastle disease must immediately notify the local APHA office. Contact details can be found at:

   https://www.gov.uk/guidance/contact-apha#scotland-apha-field-services

10. In the event of disease outbreak, gatherings of poultry and other captive birds are not permitted in a Protection or Surveillance Zone, and this general licence does not apply within those zones. Birds originating from a Protection or Surveillance Zone are not permitted to attend gatherings.

11. Used litter and unused feed that birds have had access to, are considered Category 2 animal by-products under assimilated regulation EC 1069/2009. They must be disposed of in accordance with one of the methods specified in article 13 of this regulation e.g. incineration, pressure sterilisation. They must not be applied to land without processing due to the risk of spreading disease.

12. The licensee should contact their local APHA office or local authority, if required, for further advice on biosecurity measures and any other legislation that may apply.

13. The licensee also is recommended to ensure that a veterinary surgeon is available to attend at short notice during the whole time that birds are present at the gathering, and ensure that they are consulted for any bird health or welfare concerns. Suspicion of a

notifiable avian disease, however, should be reported directly and immediately to APHA.

14. It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that APHA has been notified of the event.