

Bird gathering guidance

Updated 21 April 2021

The following features indicate a bird gathering is taking place:

- bringing together or gathering of poultry¹ or other captive birds² from different locations to a single site for any purpose and returning them back to their original location or dispersing them to more than one new location.
- birds remaining at the gathering location for 13 days or less, following the arrival of the last bird

The following are examples of gatherings:

- bird fairs
- markets
- shows
- sales or exhibitions
- pigeons brought together, including vehicles or liberation pens, for pigeon racing
- catching-up of wild game birds (where they come from multiple locations to a single location and are then moved onwards to different premises)
- movement of birds (except where the movement is direct to slaughter), sales or rehoming of birds, including through dealing or selling via the internet, where birds (whether or not these are the ones being sold) have come onto the premises in the previous 13 days.
- birds from multiple locations brought onto a vehicle and then dropped off at other multiple locations, including couriers and transporters

We do not consider the following to be bird gatherings:

- collection of birds at a licensed slaughterhouse for slaughter
- birds which are brought together from different locations, but where no birds leave until more than 13 days have passed since the last bird arrived on the premises
- selling birds as a dealer or via the internet when no birds leave until more than 13 days have passed since the last bird arrived on the premises

¹ "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.

² "other captive bird" means any bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a pet bird and any bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale.

- where all of the birds brought together have come from the same premises and then return to that premises afterwards
- a sale of birds which have all come from the same single premises (a dispersal sale or 're-homing')
- catching-up of wild game birds during the relevant open season where they have come from multiple locations but are then moved to a single location afterwards, and remain there for breeding or other purposes
- a show involving only table eggs

The lists under above are not intended to be comprehensive.

It is best practice to adopt [good biosecurity measures](#) and to keep a record of all movements of birds on and off the premises.