

Updated Outbreak Assessment #29

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in the UK and Europe

04 July 2022

Ref: VITT/1200 HPAI in the UK and Europe

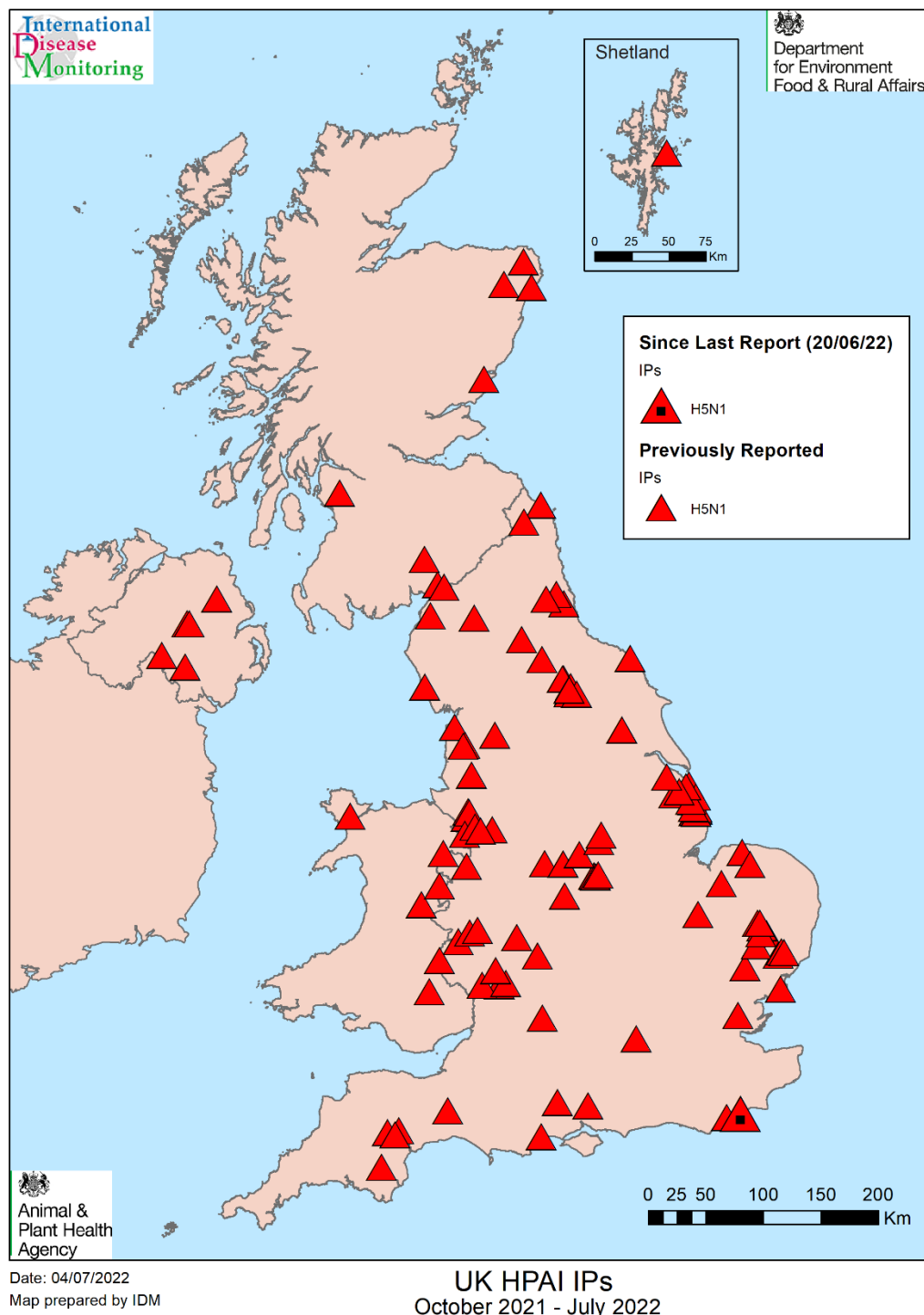
Disease report

Since our last outbreak assessment on 20 June 2022, there have been further reports of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) H5 both in domestic poultry and in wild birds in the United Kingdom (UK) and Europe. These include one new infected premises (IP) confirmed with HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in England. There have been 35 further HPAI H5 events detected in wild birds in Great Britain (GB) since our last assessment.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has reported one new IP with HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry in Slovakia since our last report.

Wild bird cases of HPAI H5N1 in Europe appear to be increasing in a third peak this summer with cases reported in Belgium, Denmark, the Faroe Islands, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia and Sweden since our last report.

Map 1: HPAI H5 outbreaks in domestic poultry¹ and captive birds across the United Kingdom, October 2021 to 04 July 2022



¹ According to the 2021 WOA definition of poultry: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

Situation assessment

United Kingdom

Since the first HPAI H5N1 detection on 15 October 2021, there have been 116 further confirmed IPs with HPAI H5N1 in poultry and captive birds across Great Britain (Map 1), (Table 1) including one on the Shetland Islands north of Scotland. Of these 117 IPs in total, 102 have occurred in England, 10 have occurred in Scotland (including the Shetland Islands), and five in Wales. The AIPZ, which requires personnel working with poultry and hobbyists to take additional biosecurity measures, remains in place in England, Wales and Scotland.

Since our last assessment on 20 June 2022, HPAI H5N1 has been confirmed at one further premises in England. This new IP was a wildlife rehabilitation centre in East Sussex.

There have been no new premises with HPAI H5N1 confirmed in Northern Ireland since our last report on 20 June 2022. Following the lifting of the AIPZ in Northern Ireland on 1 June 2022, the total number of poultry IPs remains at six including the counties of Tyrone, Antrim, Armagh and Fermanagh (DAERA, 2022). As of 04 July 2022, the number of wild bird findings of HPAI H5 in Northern Ireland is 10 (IZSve, 2022).

Table 1: Current poultry¹ and captive bird premises with High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in Great Britain and Shetlands as of 04 July 2022. For outbreaks which were resolved before 20 June, see our [previous outbreak assessment](#)

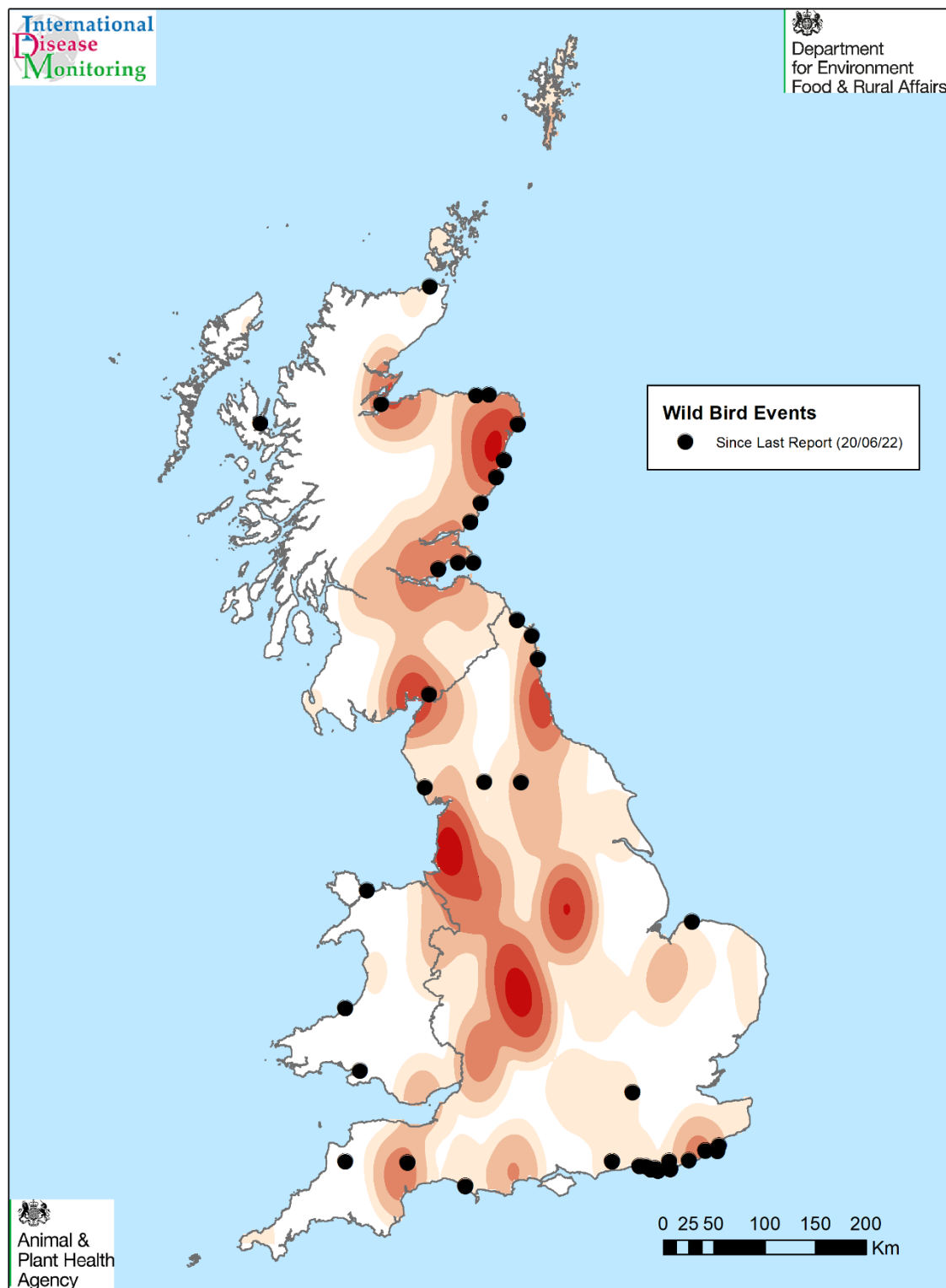
Outbreak Number	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description	Date resolved ²
110	24 April 2022	Near Ilkeston, Derbyshire	Smallholder mixed species	
111	7 May 2022	Near Lowdham, Nottinghamshire	Commercial laying hens	
112	19 May 2022	Near Southwell, Nottinghamshire	Commercial smallholder mixed species	

Outbreak Number	Date HPAI H5N1 confirmed	Location, County	Description	Date resolved ²
113	30 May 2022	Near the Island of Whalsay, Shetland	Commercial free range laying hens	
114	1 June 2022	Near Ludlow, Shropshire	Commercial fattening turkeys	
115	7 June 2022	Near Ludlow, Shropshire	Commercial fattening turkeys	
116	15 June 2022	Near Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex	Backyard chickens	
117	21 June 2022	Near Hastings, East Sussex	Wildlife rehabilitation centre	

¹ According to the 2021 WOAHA definition of poultry: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOAHA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

² Date resolved refers to the date when all disease control restrictions (3km Protection Zone, 10km Surveillance Zone, 3km Captive Bird Monitoring Controlled Zone) have been removed from the premises

Map 2: Map showing the relative density of and most recent HPAI H5 positive findings in wild birds across Great Britain October 2021 to 04 July 2022



Date: 04/07/2022
Map prepared by IDM

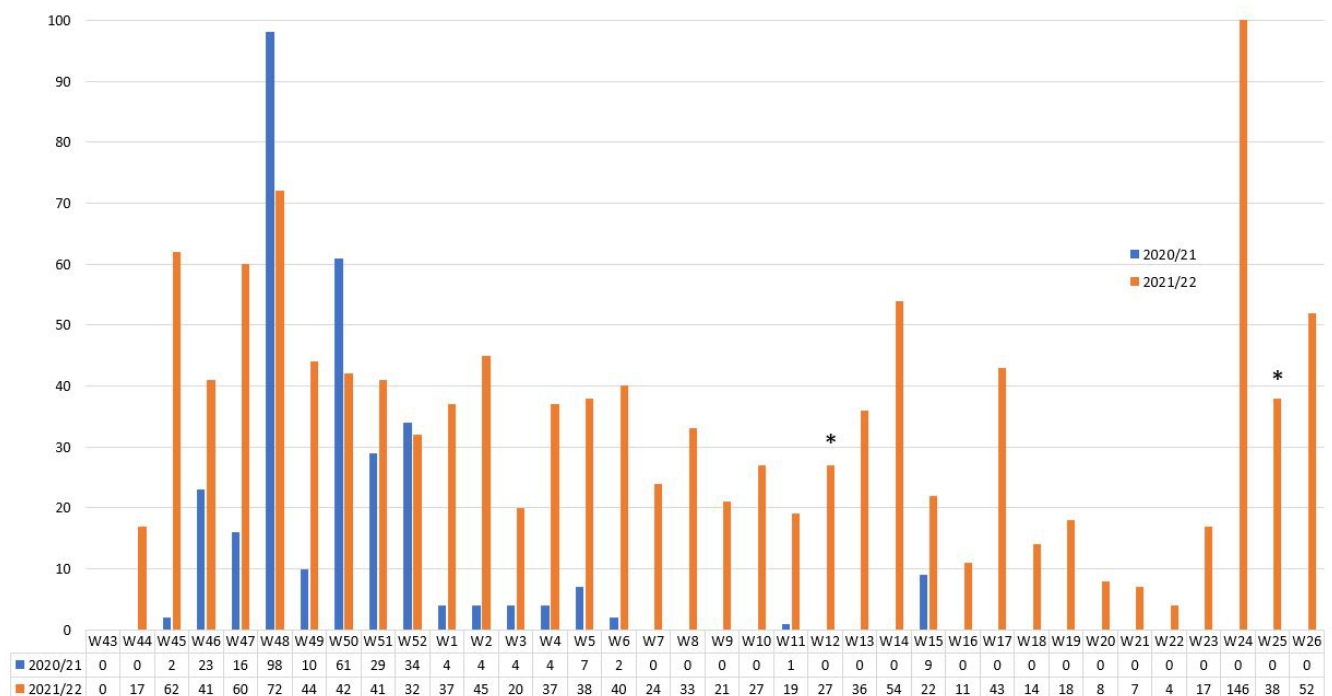
GB HPAI Wild Bird Events
October 2021 - July 2022

Since our last outbreak assessment on 20 June 2022, HPAI H5 has been detected in wild birds in 35 locations in Great Britain and the Scottish Isles, 19 of which have not had HPAI reported in wild birds previously, bringing the total to 331 separate wild bird positive locations, involving 57 different bird species (listed in Table 2), in 78 separate counties. The total number of positive wild bird findings is 1,346, with most in England (Table 2). The findings reported within the last two weeks are fairly widespread across Great Britain. Most of these findings were at coastal locations, involving mass mortality events, although there were also some unrelated inland cases.

The majority of wild birds that have tested positive for HPAI H5 in Great Britain during the 2021 to 2022 season have been infected with the H5N1 strain. HPAI continues to be detected in wild birds, with many more reports in the 2021 to 2022 season compared to the 2020 to 2021 season (Figure 1).

There have been 51 cases for which the HPAI H5 genotype has been identified, and characterisation of neuraminidase (NA) subtype is in progress due to low viral loads in samples. The NA could not be determined for a total of eight H5 HPAI samples from wild birds, due to very low viral loads.

Figure 1: Wild bird HPAI H5N1 positives across Great Britain 2020 to 2021 and 2021 to 2022 seasons. Asterisks denote changes in surveillance sensitivity¹.



¹Increased sensitivity of surveillance in England in week 12 and decreased sensitivity of surveillance in heavily affected seabird populations across Great Britain in week 25.

The species of wild birds affected by HPAI in mainland Great Britain have varied throughout the current 2021 to 2022 season, including a greater variety of wild bird species overall compared to previous seasons. An increasing proportion of birds of prey/raptor species (*Accipitriformes*) and other resident species (*Passeriformes*, *Columbiformes*) have become infected as the outbreak has progressed and more recently, many seabirds including gannets, gulls, guillemots and great skua have become infected throughout June 2022. For further information on the “order shift” of HPAI during the 2021/2022 epizootic season, see our [previous outbreak assessment](#).

This increased number of cases in sea birds may be in part due to breeding patterns, with auk species such as guillemot now at coastal breeding sites where birds are closely packed on vertical cliff faces rather than dispersed out to sea. Gannets and auks nest in high density colonies on cliffs and would be exposed to faeces from other birds in the colony.

For further details, please see the report (updated weekly) on findings of [HPAI in wild birds](#) in Great Britain and [Northern Ireland](#).

As of 04 July 2022, there has been a total of 43 wild bird HPAI findings from across the Scottish islands of Shetland (29), Orkney (10) and the Western Isles (4). These findings comprise of four Arctic terns, eight common eider ducks, 11 gannets, two great black-backed gulls, 16 great skua, one unidentified gull and one unspecified goose and were collected between 18 March and 06 June 2022. We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding HPAI in the Scottish islands.

Table 2: Wild bird species in Great Britain that have tested positive for HPAI H5 as of 04 July 2022

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
England (below)	808
Arctic Tern	1
Barnacle Goose	13
Bewick's Swan	1
Black headed gull	18
Black Swan	2
Canada Goose	149
Common Buzzard	60
Common Eider	1
Common Tern	5
Coot	1
Curlew	2

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Gadwall	1
Gannet	24
Goshawk	1
Great-crested Grebe	3
Grey Heron	3
Greylag goose	38
Guillemot	4
Gull sp.	10
Hen Harrier	3
Herring Gull	78
Kestrel	6
Kittiwake	1
Lapwing	1
Little Gull	1
Magpie	1
Mallard Duck	15
Moorhen	5
Mute Swan	232
Oystercatcher	1
Peregrine Falcon	5
Pheasant	8
Pied Wagtail	6
Pink Footed goose	18
Puffin	1
Razorbill	1
Red Kite	2
Roseate Tern	1
Sandwich Tern	5
Sea Eagle	1
Sparrowhawk	7
Tawny Owl	1
Tufted Duck	1
Unidentified Swan	17
Unspecified Dove	2
Unspecified Duck	1
Unspecified Goose	16
Unspecified pigeon	1
White Fronted Goose	1
Whooper Swan	31
Widgeon	1

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Wales (below)	45
Black headed gull	1
Canada Goose	4
Carrion Crow	2
Common Buzzard	4
Goshawk	1
Greylag goose	1
Herring Gull	3
Mute Swan	15
Peregrine Falcon	1
Pheasant	5
Sparrowhawk	1
Unidentified Swan	1
Unspecified Goose	5
Unspecified pigeon	1
Scotland (below)	493
Arctic Tern	4
Barnacle Goose	34
Bird of Prey Unspecified	3
Black headed gull	2
Blackbird	1
Canada Goose	3
Common Buzzard	63
Common Eider	13
Gannet	88
Great black backed gull	2
Great skua	19
Greylag goose	26
Guillemot	14
Gull sp.	13
Herring Gull	12
Kestrel	1
Kittiwake	1
Magpie	1
Mallard Duck	1
Mute Swan	28
Pink Footed goose	80
Red Kite	3
Sandwich Tern	1
Sea Eagle	3

Region and species	Total number of birds testing positive
Sparrowhawk	5
Unidentified Swan	16
Unspecified Crow	1
Unspecified Duck	2
Unspecified Goose	42
Unspecified Gull	1
Unspecified waterfowl	1
Whooper Swan	9
Wood Pigeon	1
Grand Total	1,346

Europe

The total numbers of IPs with HPAI H5 in poultry and cases in wild birds in Europe are presented in Table 3. New disease reports are still being made to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on a daily basis. Numbers reported are from WOAH's WAHIS platform.

Table 3: Events (to 04 July 2022) of HPAI H5 in domestic poultry (P) and cases in wild birds (WB) since 1 October 2021 in the UK and Europe, according to WOAH report date

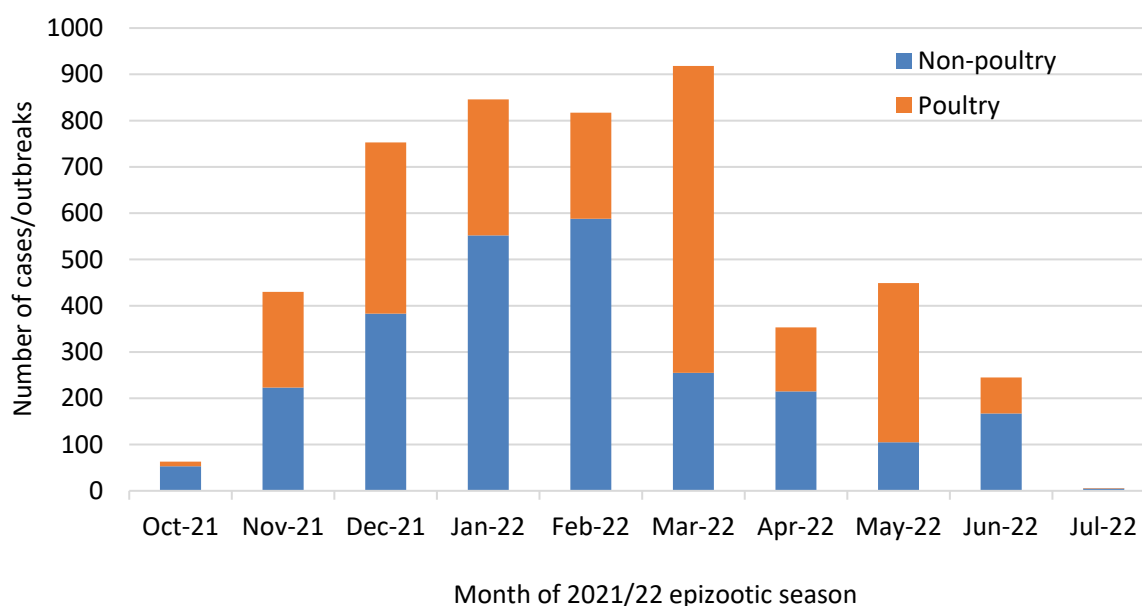
Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	H5N5 (WB)	Total
Albania			1			4					5
Austria			35								35
Belgium	6		78	3							87
Bosnia and Herzegovina			2								2
Bulgaria	1	32									33
Croatia			8	3							11

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	H5N5 (WB)	Total
Czech Republic			21	6							27
Denmark		1	135	4	1	1					142
Estonia			10		2	1					13
Faroe Islands			3								3
Finland			23		2						25
France			103	1,121							1,224
Germany			1,060	71			1		1		1,133
Greece			7								7
Hungary			33	305							338
Iceland			20	1							21
Ireland			75	6							81
Italy			21	249							270
Latvia			2								2
Lithuania			6								6
Luxembourg			4								4
Moldova				1							1
Netherlands	1		214	47	2						264

Country	H5 (WB)	H5 (P)	H5N1 (WB)	H5N1 (P)	H5N8 (WB)	H5N8 (P)	H5N2 (WB)	H5N2 (P)	H5N3 (WB)	H5N5 (WB)	Total
Norway			18	2						8	28
Poland			35	103				1			139
Portugal			13	4							17
Republic of North Macedonia			3								3
Romania			14	5							19
Russia	35	12	20	9							76
Serbia and Montenegro			3		3		1				7
Slovakia			22	4	1						27
Slovenia			39	1							40
Spain			53	31							84
Sweden			49	4	1						54
Switzerland			3								3
Ukraine	2	1									3
United Kingdom			432	82	1						515

Figure 2: Number of HPAI H5 outbreaks in domestic poultry¹ and cases in non-poultry, including wild birds reported in the United Kingdom and Europe each

month during the 2021 to 2022 epizootic, according to WOAHA report date as of 04 July 2022



¹ According to the 2021 WOAHA definition of poultry: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOAHA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)

The number of outbreaks of HPAI H5 in poultry reported by the WOAHA each month are at their lowest since November 2021, with 78 outbreaks reported in June 2022 (Figure 2). The number of cases in non-poultry, including wild birds has increased from 105 cases reported in May to 167 cases reported in June (Figure 2). Typically, there has been a lag between wild bird cases and poultry outbreaks throughout this season, as has been observed in previous [seasons](#).

Northern Europe

Since our last outbreak assessment on 20 June 2022, HPAI H5 has been reported in 13 European countries excluding the United Kingdom (WOAHA). The total number of European countries affected this HPAI season according to EU reference laboratory data, (Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie; IZSVE, 2022) is currently 34.

Belgium

Between 20 June and 04 July, the WOAHA has not reported any further HPAI outbreaks in poultry but has reported eight further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild and captive birds. These cases involved two sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), two northern gannets (*Morus bassanus*), one European herring gull (*Larus argentatus*), one common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and one great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). The case in

captive birds involved a captive bird dealer premises with 211 birds of mixed species including chickens, quails, pigeons, songbirds and a peacock.

Denmark

There have been no further reports of HPAI in poultry since our last assessment but there have been nine further cases in wild birds. These nine cases involved a total of 11 northern gannets (*Morus bassanus*), two tawny owls (*Strix aluco*), two sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) and one northern fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis*).

Faroe Islands

Between 20 June and 04 July, there have been two further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds which comprised of six great skua (*Stercorarius skua*) and two great black-backed gulls (*Larus marinus*).

Finland

Since our last assessment, the WOAHA has not reported any further HPAI IPs, but has reported two further cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds, involving two white-tailed eagles (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and one great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

France

According to the WOAHA, there have been no reports of HPAI in domestic poultry or wild birds since 20 June 2022. This is pertinent given the lowering of national risk level and lifting of housing measures since the beginning of June, though it should be noted that Brittany, Normandy, Pays de la Loire, Deux-Sèvres, Aveyron, Cantal, Charente, Corrèze, Dordogne, Haute-Vienne, Lot and Lot et Garonne remain under restrictions. The latest International Health Watch bulletin has described ongoing detections of HPAI in wild birds near the northern coast of France as of 03 July, according to the national reference laboratory. In light of this, French ministers have called for increased biosecurity, clinical detection, and limited movement of animals as much as possible within the affected departments to control further spread of HPAI or potential reinfection of the poultry population (Plateforme ESA, 2022).

Germany

There have been no further poultry premises with HPAI H5N1 reported by the WOAHA for Germany since our last assessment but there has been a further 13 cases reported in wild birds, including unspecified Laridae (46), Passeridae (22), Sulidae (8), Anatidae (2) and Charadriidae (1) birds.

Iceland

Since our last assessment, there have been no further reports of HPAI in poultry by the WOAHP but there have been three further cases of HPAI H5N1 reported in wild birds. These cases involved two European herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*), one common raven (*Corvus corax*) and one lesser black-backed gull (*Larus fuscus*).

Lithuania

Between 20 June and 04 July, there have been no further outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in domestic poultry reported by the WOAHP but there has been a case involving 50 wild black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) reported, all of which were found dead.

Norway

There have been no further reports of HPAI H5N1 in poultry since 20 June, but there have been seven further cases of HPAI H5N1 reported in wild birds. These cases involved nine northern gannets (*Morus bassanus*), one white-tailed eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and one unspecified Accipitridae bird.

Poland

Since our last assessment, there have been no further reports of HPAI in poultry by the WOAHP but there has been one further case reported in wild birds. This involved one common tern (*Sterna hirundo*) and one sandwich tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*).

Russia

Between 20 June and 04 July, the WOAHP has reported no further poultry IPs with HPAI H5N1 but has reported four outbreaks in non-commercial backyard flocks. The number of birds at each premises ranged from 101 to 250. The species of birds kept was reported for three of the outbreaks, which was chickens. No further cases of HPAI in wild birds have been reported since our last assessment.

Slovakia

Since our last assessment on 20 June, there has been a further outbreak of HPAI H5N1 reported by the WOAHP in a backyard poultry premises. The number of birds affected at the premises was 22 however species of birds kept has yet to be reported.

Sweden

There have been no further reports of HPAI in poultry since our last assessment but there have been eight cases of HPAI H5N1 reported in wild birds, involving a total of 15 sandwich terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), five black-headed gulls (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*), two Mediterranean gulls (*Ichthyaetus melanocephalus*) and one barnacle goose (*Branta leucopsis*).

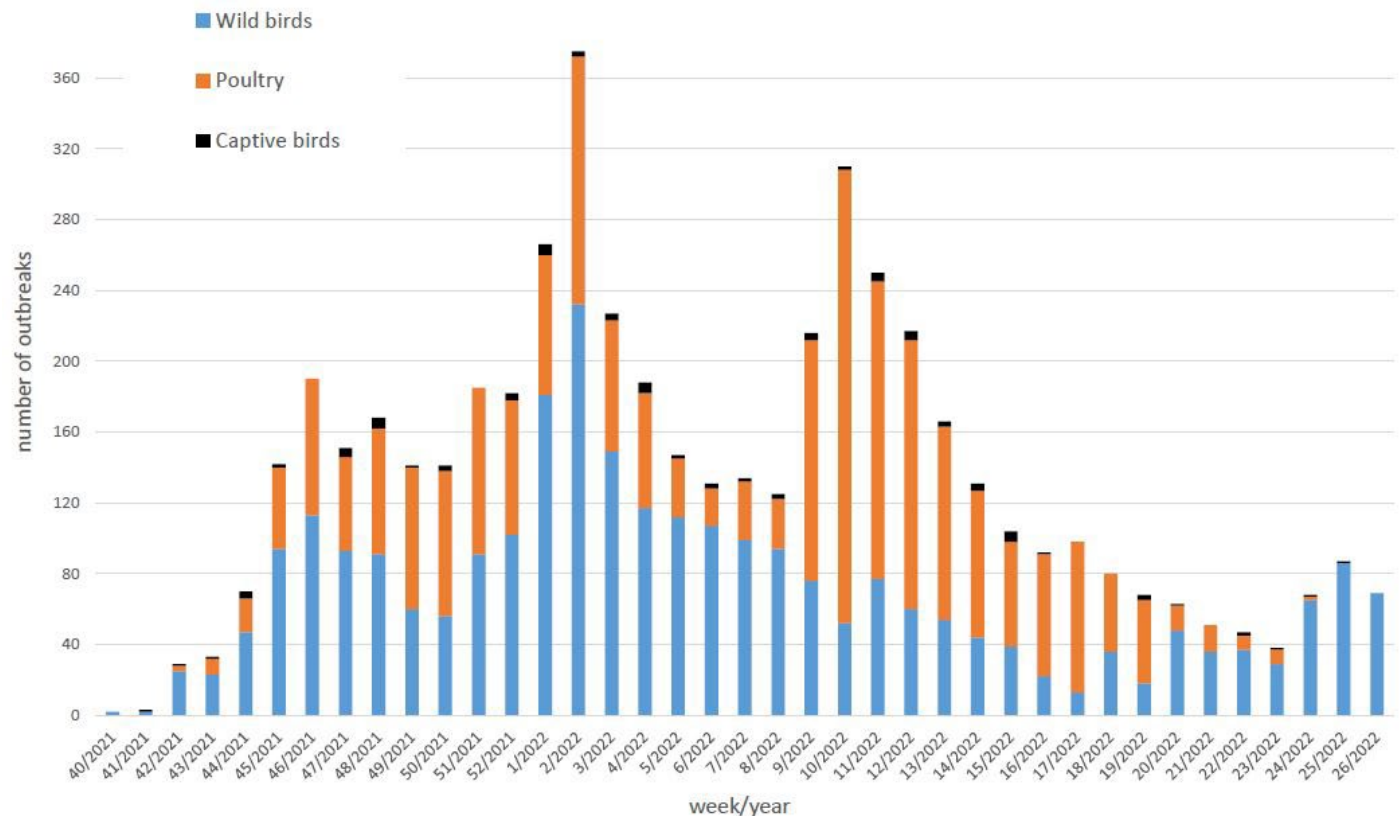
Southern Europe

Portugal

Since 20 June 2022, the WOAHA has not reported any further HPAI IPs with domestic poultry but has reported one case of HPAI H5N1 in a single wild northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*). The last report of HPAI H5N1 in Portugal was in a backyard flock of chickens, ducks and geese in mid-March.

According to the WOAHA, there have been no further reports of HPAI H5 outbreaks in domestic poultry or cases in wild birds between 20 June and 04 July in; Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Moldova, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, the Republic of Ireland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland or Ukraine.

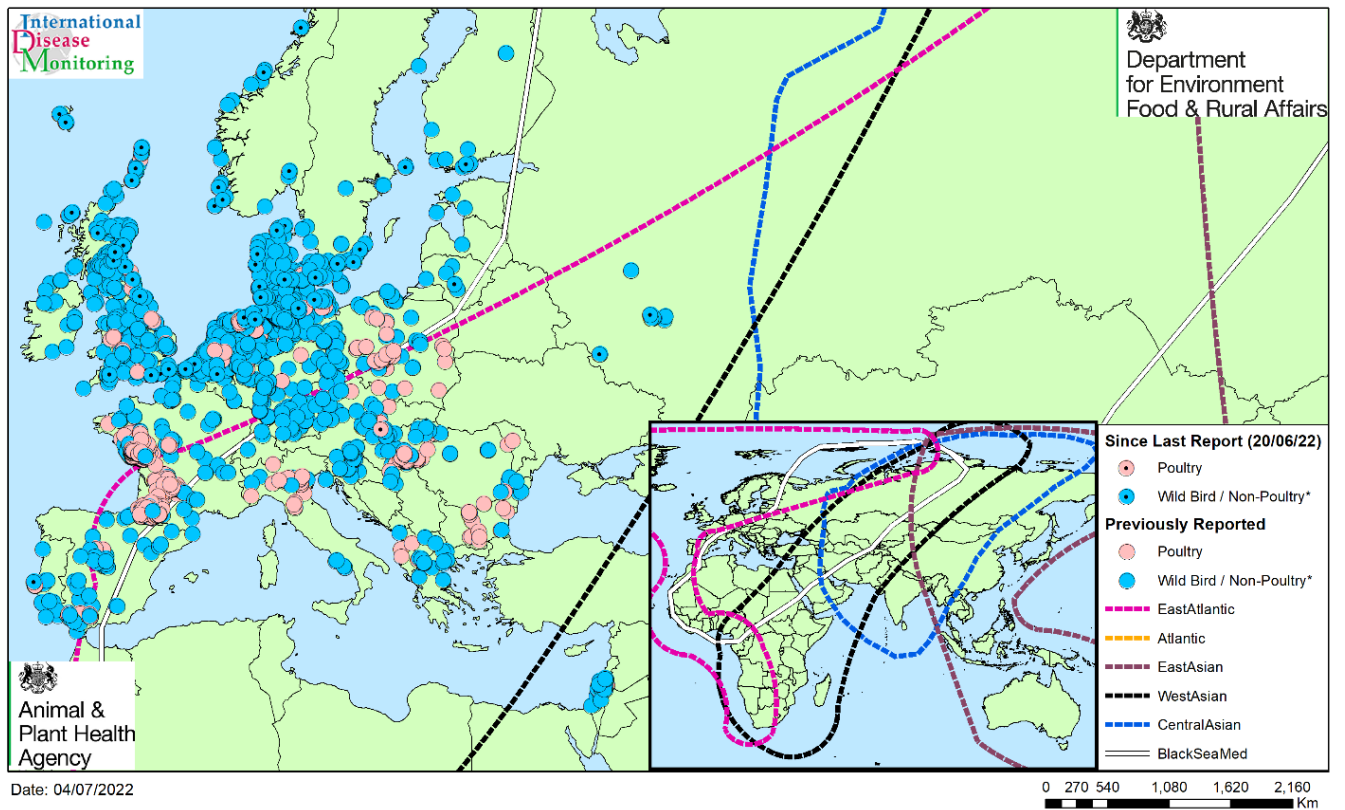
Figure 3: Number of HPAI positive events reported in poultry, captive and wild birds each week in Europe from October 2021 to 04 July 2022 (IZSVe, 2022)



Across Europe, the number of poultry IPs reported weekly by IZSVe continues to decrease, with fewer than five outbreaks reported in week 24 and no outbreaks reported in weeks 25 or 26, as of 04 July (Figure 3). The weekly number of HPAI cases in wild birds has increased from 30 in week 23 to around 83 cases in week 25, which is the highest number of cases observed in one week since February 2022 (Figure 3).

Map 3 shows the distribution of HPAI H5 outbreaks in poultry and captive birds, together with cases in wild birds, in Europe reported by WOA H between January 2022 and 04 July 2022. Those events reported since our last outbreak assessment on 20 June are identified with black central dots.

Map 3: HPAI outbreaks (from WOAH) in poultry, captive, and wild birds across Europe, January 2022 to 04 July 2022.



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Poultry and Non-Poultry*

January - July 2022

Overlay: Migratory Bird Flyways

WOAH Data Only

*WOAH Defined

Implications for the GB

The current situation with HPAI H5N1 in breeding birds over the summer months in GB and north-west Europe is unprecedented and we are in uncharted territory with mass die-offs in seabird breeding colonies around the GB coastline. A variety of seabird species have been infected including gannets, great skuas, puffins, guillemots, common eider ducks, herring gulls, and arctic, sandwich and common tern. Of conservation concern, a roseate tern (red list) breeding colony has been affected too. In previous years HPAI has generally not been detected in wild birds in the summer months and the national risk level for HPAI H5 in wild birds has typically been at low for several weeks. While seabirds typically forage in the sea, gull species may fly inland and scavengers such as raptors and corvids could bring infection inland from the affected coastal sites. Indeed, there are still cases of H5N1 in wild birds inland in England including moorhens in London and two separate events (Canada geese and buzzard) in mid Devon recently. These inland cases together with the affected gull colonies in coastal areas present a

period of uncertainty and warrant maintaining the national risk level for HPAI H5 in wild birds at medium.

The number of wild bird cases increased 5-fold at week 24 in GB (Figure 1) and although the number of new cases has reduced by around half since the peak number of cases observed two weeks ago, this decrease may reflect the reduction in sensitivity of collecting wild bird carcasses (set out at end of this document). Due to differences in nesting and feeding behaviours, the recent mass mortality events observed in seabirds are not anticipated to pose the same level of onward risk to the poultry population as the peak numbers of wild bird mortalities observed earlier in the 2021/2022 epizootic, which included predominantly waterfowl and raptor species.

Also, for the first time there is a third peak in wild bird cases in Europe with the number of cases reported increasing from 10 to 30 per week over the last few months up to 85 per week in the last couple of weeks. Most cases are in northern Europe with 38 in Germany (total 1,342), 20 in Norway (total 53), 19 in Denmark (total 145) in the last week alone. Cases include seabirds, mainly gannets and gulls with some terns but also occasional detections in passerines: the species dynamic has shifted since the winter, with H5 persisting over the summer in breeding seabirds.

It should be noted that trends in wild bird cases in Europe are of minimal significance as a predictor for UK incursions at this time of year. However, the increase in wild bird cases in both GB and Europe at week 24 is striking, possibly reflecting seabirds moving between sites with similar seabird species to those affected in Great Britain being reported in Europe.

This summer, resident wild birds may continue to circulate HPAI H5 virus and consequently act as a future source of infection to poultry. Poultry outbreaks appear now to be more under control both in Europe and the UK after the unprecedented number of outbreaks this last season (21/22). This is perhaps due to high temperatures (from recent heat waves) and long hours of sunlight inactivating the virus and so reducing environmental spread at inland sites. This inactivation of the virus would not diminish transmission between the seabirds which congregate on top of each other on vertical cliffs at this time of year. In the next month, those seabird breeding colonies will start to disperse, particularly the auk colonies with the birds flying out to sea, although gannets and skuas may remain at their colonies a little longer. It is expected that the transmission in seabirds will reduce as they leave their colonies and disperse out to sea. However, there is now the emergence of immunologically naïve juvenile birds leaving their nests and dispersing inland to consider both for gulls and passerine species. This change in population structure and contact behaviour could increase the

circulation of virus within the wild bird population and hence HPAI virus contamination levels close to sites of poultry production over the summer.

Further east, Kazakhstan reported HPAIV H5 in a water sample collected on 19 June from the northern shore of the Caspian Sea. Previous seasons have considered that these reports in late summer are the first signs of the impending autumn risk of HPAIV H5. Additionally, the ducks geese and swans returning from Siberia to GB in the autumn, will travel through northern Europe (Norway, Denmark and Sweden) where H5 continues to be reported in wild birds. If these reports continue into the autumn months, there would be an increased infection pressure for migrating wild birds in northern Europe, on their way to GB, in addition to infection from their breeding sites. This month (July) failed breeder wading birds will begin to return to the UK and northern Europe from Arctic breeding sites in Iceland, where HPAI has been reported during April and May.

Though there are gaps in scientific knowledge, the direct risk to GB poultry from infected seabirds at coastal locations is currently assumed to be relatively low, due to seabird behaviour and few opportunities for mixing. However, the continued detection of HPAI positive wild birds at inland locations over the last fortnight, together with the new IP reported herein, confirm the ongoing infection pressure from wild birds particularly where biosecurity is sub-optimal. The ongoing wild bird infection pressure will likely expose any weaknesses that exist, even where biosecurity is good.

It is imperative that biosecurity is maintained to the highest extent possible to mitigate against the ongoing risk of infection posed by wild birds across the UK, especially since the lifting of housing measures on 2 May 2022.

Conclusion

Cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds and confirmations in poultry premises have continued to be reported across Europe and in Great Britain (GB) since our last assessment.

There have been 1,346 confirmed cases of HPAI H5 in wild birds in Great Britain to 04 July 2022 across a range of species, with multiple detections increasing dramatically in wild birds in the last two weeks, albeit many of these represented mass mortality events associated with sea bird breeding colonies (Figure 1). The [previously described](#) wild bird species 'order shift' observed between November 2021 and June 2022 reflects the spread of HPAIV infection from migratory water birds to native, sedentary wild bird species, including now seabird populations, which is unprecedented. The overall

number of detections in wild birds, and wild bird infection pressure, are not decreasing as was perhaps anticipated from previous epizootics (Figure 1).

In most years, the risk of HPAIV H5 falls rapidly over the summer months as the migratory waterbirds leave the UK in April. The mass die-offs this summer together with sustained transmission in breeding birds over the summer in GB and Europe is unprecedented. Even though the migratory waterbirds have now departed the UK some months ago, infection is maintained in tightly packed seabird colonies at coastal sites. There are still immunologically naïve, susceptible, resident bird species in the UK which could become infected from residual environmental contamination. Furthermore, the number of these susceptible birds will increase as the juvenile birds from this season fledge and disperse. Higher environmental temperatures, together with increasing sunlight intensities must be greatly reducing environmental levels of HPAI H5N1 currently and may be contributing to the reduced number of poultry outbreaks both in Europe and GB. However, it remains to be seen to what level the wild bird risk will fall over the summer.

The risk of HPAI H5 infection in wild birds in GB remains at **MEDIUM**.

The risk of exposure of poultry across the whole of Great Britain is maintained at **low** (with low uncertainty) where good biosecurity is applied, and at **medium** (with low uncertainty) where biosecurity is suboptimal. This assessment takes into consideration the Avian Influenza Protection Zone (AIPZ) and assumes that bird keepers are taking the additional biosecurity measures required.

On 24 November, the Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland announced housing measures, which came into force on the 29 November 2021. The housing measures were subsequently [lifted across the UK on Monday 2 May 2022](#), though the AIPZ still remains in place, and biosecurity requirements should be adhered to.

We are continuing to closely monitor the situation and reviewing the risk.

It is particularly important that stringent adherence to good biosecurity practices is still maintained, even though the outbreak appears to be waning and sunnier, warmer weather is forecast. Strict attention should be made to ensure compliance with reviewed contingency plans, with regular maintenance checks and repairs being carried out promptly not only on buildings, but to fencing and boundaries of outdoor areas to minimise contact with wild birds.

Reinforcement of good biosecurity awareness behaviours and practices should be a constant reminder to all personnel working with birds; any lapse of these measures

could still easily result in disease being introduced to poultry and captive birds. Special consideration should be made when bringing in equipment and materials, especially bedding and outer packages which may have become contaminated following environmental exposure whilst stored outside.

If you keep poultry (including game birds or as pets), you should follow our [biosecurity best practice advice](#) on GOV.UK

Remain vigilant for any signs of disease in your flock and report any suspicious clinical signs of avian influenza to the Animal and Plant Health Agency.

- In England contact 03000 200 301
- In Wales, contact 0300 303 8268
- In Scotland, contact your [local field services office](#)

Further guidance about Avian Influenza including updated biosecurity advice for poultry keepers, in:

- [England is available on GOV.UK](#)
- Wales, is available on the [Welsh Government's website](#)
- Scotland, is available on the [Scottish Government's website](#)
- North Ireland is available on [DAERA's website](#)

The WOA, FAO International Reference Laboratory and the UK National Reference Laboratory at Weybridge has the necessary diagnostic capability for strains of avian influenza virus, whether of low or high pathogenicity, and continually monitors changes in the virus on a wide scale whilst utilising global networks to gain early insights to epidemiological trends and potential emergence of new genotypes which might change the risk profile.

We will continue to report on any updates to the situation in Europe and in particular, any changes in disease distribution or wild bird movements which may increase the risk to the UK.

In England, Scotland and Wales, any findings of the following dead wild birds found at the same location at the same time should be reported to the Wild bird Helpline (Telephone: 03459 33 55 77 – select option 7):

- 3 or more swans, geese, ducks, gulls and waders
- Any number of birds of prey, including owls
- five or more birds of any species

It is advisable that you do not touch these birds.

Authors

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References

All outbreaks and cases were taken from the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH). Please note that changes in format and level of detail are due to the change of data source for this report, from EU's Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS) to World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

- DAERA (2022) [Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Avian influenza information page](#)
- IZSVe (2022) [IZSVe report - Number of highly pathogenic avian influenza positive events notified by country and poultry category \(pdf\)](#)
- Plateforme ESA (2022) [Weekly bulletin of International Animal Health Watch of 27/06/2022 to 03/07/2022](#)



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