



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Access to Information Team  
Woodham Lane  
New Haw  
Addlestone  
Surrey  
KT15 3NB

[enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/apha](http://www.gov.uk/apha)

Our Ref: ATIC2818

[REDACTED]

{By Email}

22 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

## PROVISION OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

Thank you for your request for information about Avian Influenza, which APHA received on 05 July 2022. Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000.

The information you requested and the response is detailed below:

Please provide studies and/or reports in the possession of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs describing the purification of "avian influenza", also known as "bird flu", and any variants such as "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" (HPAI), via maceration, filtration, and use of ultracentrifuge, (known as "isolation"), directly from a sample taken from a diseased bird, where the sample was not combined with any other source of genetic material.

Clarity was requested and was provided below;

In response to your questions:

"1) The requester, is named at the end of the email,"

Thank you for confirmation of your details.

"2) When a "pathogen" is isolated, the results are submitted in the form of a "study" or "document". If "avian influenza", and variants of "avian influenza", have been isolated, studies and/or documentation of isolation will be available to the relevant agencies, such as yourselves and DEFRA."

Please see attached Appendix 1 as an example of an official report.

"3) The study/documentation for isolation of "avian influenza", also known as "bird flu", that I request should have been undertaken as follows:

a) via maceration, filtration, and use of ultracentrifuge, (the "gold standard" of isolation),"

Tissue samples are 'processed' (including centrifugation) into a suspension for attempted virus isolation. Tissue samples have to be macerated into a suspension (clarified by centrifugation) for attempted virus isolation.

"b) the sample taken directly from a diseased bird,"

Yes all samples submitted for testing are taken from the suspect-diseased bird on the premise

"c) the sample should not have been combined with any other source of genetic material."

Correct unless there is a genuine mixed infection of for example avian influenza virus and Newcastle disease virus.

### **Section 16 (Help and advice)**

For each statutory investigation for avian influenza, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) gold standard test of virus isolation in embryonated fowls' eggs is attempted. This is a United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) - accredited method. The outcomes of the virus isolation for each sample tested are then officially reported along with other front-line diagnostic test results (usually Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) and/or serology) performed on the samples.

See APHA information on PCR tests here:

[Disease Surveillance Tests \(vla.gov.uk\)](http://vla.gov.uk)

Information disclosed in response to this FOI request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the FOI and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on GOV.UK, together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

An Annex is attached which explains the copyright that applies to the information being released to you and contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact the Access to Information Team at the email address below or postal address at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely

### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION TEAM**

Email: [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk)

## Annex

### Copyright

The information supplied to you continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs or logos) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents produced by APHA will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).

### Complaints

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request, you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to the Access to Information Manager at the address at the top of this letter or email [enquiries@apha.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@apha.gov.uk) and the team will arrange for an internal review of your case.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted APHA's own complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

If you need to contact the ICO, it's best to do so online. Please click [here](#) for contact details. You can also call them on 0303 123 1113.

# Avian Notifiable Disease Submission

Diagnostic Case AV003043-22

**Positive Report**



Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0691-Matrix (M) gene RRT-PCR - screening test for M gene of all influenza A viruses with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Mixed Avian	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	Influenza A viral RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
Chicken	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No Influenza A viral RNA detected

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

Page 1 of 7

08/07/2022



1769

All results included in this report relate only to the sample tested. A subsample of the item may have been tested where appropriate

Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address:

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address:

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref:

Case Ref:

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Submission details as supplied by the customer

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0815-Avian Virus Isolation - ND, PMV, AI, 2 passages in eggs with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Mixed Avian		Pooled Brain	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Brain	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Intestines	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Intestines	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Trachea Lung	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Trachea Lung	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Viscera	Haemagglutinating virus isolated
		Pooled Viscera	Haemagglutinating virus isolated

Authorised Responsible Officer:

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA  
‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited  
§ Accredited under Flexible Scope  
rpt.positive in moss.pbl



JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0231§-Real-time RT-PCR for the detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses of subtype H5 with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Mixed Avian	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED] 8	Pooled Viscera	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

# Avian Notifiable Disease Submission

Diagnostic Case AV003043-22

**Positive Report**



Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	Highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA DETECTED
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
Chicken	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No highly pathogenic H5 influenza A virus RNA detected

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

Page 4 of 7

08/07/2022



1769

All results included in this report relate only to the sample tested. A subsample of the item may have been tested where appropriate

# Avian Notifiable Disease Submission

Diagnostic Case AV003043-22

**Positive Report**



Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0782-Real-time RT-PCR for Avian paramyxovirus 1 (APMV-1) L gene with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Mixed Avian	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
Chicken	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No APMV-1 viral RNA detected

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

Page 5 of 7

08/07/2022



1769

All results included in this report relate only to the sample tested. A subsample of the item may have been tested where appropriate



# Avian Notifiable Disease Submission

Diagnostic Case AV003043-22

**Positive Report**



Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0854†-Avian influenza - detects N1 subtype viruses in clinical specimens with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Mixed Avian	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Brain	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Intestines	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Trachea Lung	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Pooled Viscera	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
Chicken	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Oro-pharyngeal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected
	[REDACTED]	Cloacal Swab	No N1 influenza A virus RNA detected

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

Page 6 of 7

08/07/2022



1769

All results included in this report relate only to the sample tested. A subsample of the item may have been tested where appropriate

# Avian Notifiable Disease Submission

Diagnostic Case AV003043-22

**Positive Report**



Lot ID AIL-22-000627

JRF:

Sampling Address: [REDACTED]

Sender: STARCROSS

Date Received: 07/07/2022 08:19:27

Date Collected: 06/07/2022 00:00:00

Owner Address: [REDACTED]

House: A (1)

CPHH:

OS Map Ref: [REDACTED]

Case Ref: [REDACTED]

Species:

3 x Unspec.Duck

5 x Chicken

2 x Unspec.Goose

Outbreak ID:

Samples: 4 x Blood Clotted  
4 x Brain  
6 x Cloacal Swab  
4 x Intestine Unspecified  
4 x Lung and Trachea  
6 x Oro-pharyngeal Swab  
4 x Viscera General

Submission details as supplied by the customer

## Report 2 (Final)

The material underwent the test TC0917-HIT for Avian Influenza with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	HIT H5 result < 1/2
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	HIT H5 result < 1/2
	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	HIT H5 result < 1/2
	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	HIT H5 result < 1/2

The material underwent the test TC0922-Newcastle Disease Ab HIT with the following results:

Species:	Our Sample Ref:	Sample Type:	Result:
Unspec.Goose	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	< 1/2
Unspec.Duck	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	< 1/2
	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	< 1/2
	[REDACTED]	Blood Clotted	< 1/2

## Comments:

According to the pathologist, a duck carcase was submitted for bird 7, this was a goose according to the paperwork.

Authorised Responsible Officer: [REDACTED]

† Test not included in the UKAS accreditation schedule for the APHA

‡ Test subcontracted to a Laboratory outside the APHA Group Accredited

§ Accredited under Flexible Scope

rpt.positive in moss.pbl

Page 7 of 7

08/07/2022



1769

All results included in this report relate only to the sample tested. A subsample of the item may have been tested where appropriate