

Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone - including housing measures (England)

As amended **9 January 2023**

1. The Secretary of State has carried out a risk assessment under article 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No 2) Order 2006¹ (“the No.2 Order”).
2. In order to reduce the risk of the transmission of avian influenza to poultry and other captive birds from wild birds or any other source, the Secretary of State considers it necessary to declare the area comprising the whole of England (also set out in an interactive map in Schedule 7) to be an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.
3. **All keepers** of poultry and other captive birds, including pet birds in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone **must comply** with the minimum biosecurity measures in **Schedule 1**.
4. **All keepers of 500** or more poultry or other captive birds in any part of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone **must also comply** with the measures in **Schedule 2**. Keepers of poultry or other captive birds at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 are exempted from the requirements of Schedule 2.
5. **All Keepers** of poultry and other captive birds **must comply** with the requirements of **Schedule 3**.
6. A keeper of poultry or other captive birds at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, may apply the measures in **Schedule 4**, as an alternative to complying with **Schedule 3**.
7. A keeper of racing pigeons, doves or other Columbiformes that wishes to allow birds to free fly **must in addition comply** with the requirements of **Schedule 5**.
8. A keeper of birds of prey or other birds trained to fly from hand or under close control that wishes to allow birds to free fly **must in addition comply** with the requirements of Schedule 6.
9. These measures in this declaration apply from **12.00 on 9 January 2023** and will remain in force until this declaration is otherwise amended or revoked by further declaration in writing.
10. This declaration is made under article 6(1)(a), 6(3) and 6(4)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the No.2 Order.

Signed:

On behalf of the Secretary of State:

Gordon Hickman

At 12.00 on 9 January 2023

Notice: Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under section 72 or 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981.

¹ S.I. 2006/2702, as amended by 2021/ 1472, 2022/1108 and 2022/1224.

Notes:

- (1) Where avian influenza is confirmed in poultry or other captive birds at an individual premises, Protection and Surveillance Zones are declared to prevent the spread of disease beyond the area around the infected farm. Keepers of poultry or other captive birds kept within a Protection Zone or Surveillance Zone (or temporary control zones or other low pathogenic restricted zones) must comply with the biosecurity requirements declared specifically for such zones. This does not remove the obligation to comply with the additional biosecurity measures required by this Declaration, including enhanced biosecurity measures if the premises contains a large numbers of birds.
- (2) “other captive bird” means a bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a pet bird and a bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale;
- (3) “poultry” means a bird reared or kept in captivity for purposes of—
 - (i) the production of meat or eggs for consumption or other poultry products;
 - (ii) restocking supplies of game; or
 - (iii) any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds or products specified in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii);but does not include any bird that is kept for the purposes of a single household, where the bird and its keeper have no direct or indirect contact with other poultry or poultry facilities, and the bird and products of the bird are used exclusively within, or for the purposes of the same household. “keeper” for the purpose of this Declaration means any person who is responsible for poultry or other captive birds, whether on a permanent or temporary basis.
- (4) “premises” for the purpose of this Declaration means any house, shed, aviary, range, coop, netted area, yard or open area which is used to keep poultry or other captive birds and includes contiguous ancillary areas such as bird feed bins, and storage of bird manure.
- (5) “covered area” in Schedule 1 Part 2 paragraph 4 means that the area where feed and water are placed must be covered to prevent it being accessed or contaminated by wild birds. Placing feed on the ground or in uncovered troughs to which wild birds can gain access is not permitted.
- (6) “zoo” means a zoo/aquarium or premises within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 which is operated under the authority of a licence under that Act or is subject to a dispensation, in a direction under section 14(1) of the Act, that the Act shall not apply to that zoo.
- (7) “anseriformes” – an order of birds including ducks, geese and swans.
- (8) “ratites” – a group of birds including ostriches, emus and rheas.
- (9) “galliformes” – an order of birds including turkeys, chickens, quail, partridges and pheasants
- (10) Nothing in this Declaration removes obligations on keepers of poultry or other captive birds from existing animal welfare requirements, and private veterinary advice should be sought by a keeper who is concerned about the suitability of housing conditions.
- (11) Guidance on biosecurity measures for poultry and kept birds may be found in Animal Health Act biosecurity guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-housing-your-birds-safely> .

- (12) Anyone who keeps poultry or other captive birds must keep a close watch on them for any signs of disease and must seek prompt advice from their vet if they have any concerns. For details of how to report suspicion of disease see www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu.
- (13) “game bird” means any pheasant, partridge, grouse (or moor game), black (or heath) game or ptarmigan or ducks bred for shooting

Copies of this Declaration and of the Order are available via <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> and from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2nd floor, Seacole Block, 2 Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF.

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspector on request, to ensure that–

- (1) precautions are taken to avoid the direct or indirect transfer of virus contamination onto and between premises from anything liable to spread infection such as clothing, including effective cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear.
- (2) all bird keepers must place foot dip containing Defra approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate at strategic points including at the entry and exit of all houses or outdoor areas where birds are kept, and footwear must be cleaned using the dips on entry and exit or alternatively disposable over-shoes or footwear should be changed when moving between bird and non-bird areas;
- (3) feed, water and bedding must be stored undercover, and steps are taken to prevent access by wild birds, in particular their droppings and to minimise the risk of virus contamination. Any straw used for bedding must be covered and access to it by wild birds and rodents prevented;
- (4) anseriformes including ducks and geese are not kept in the same pen or building as other bird species (other than in a zoo);
- (5) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises;
- (6) effective vermin control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept;
- (7) birds of prey are not fed anything that may have been exposed to virus, this includes wild waterfowl;
- (8) the movement of people (other than in a zoo), vehicles or equipment to and from the part of the premises where poultry and other captive birds are kept is reduced to only essential movements for looking after their welfare, collecting eggs and feeding or movements for official or inspection visits;
- (9) records are kept (other than in a zoo) of all vehicles that enter any part of the premises where poultry and other captive birds are kept and of all people who come into any direct contact with the poultry.
- (10) records of all poultry, captive birds and egg movements must be kept and made available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:
 - the quantity and description (including species of bird or type of egg) transported or marketed;
 - the date of the movement off the premises;
 - the premises of destination (if known);
 - the name and address of the person to whom ownership or possession of the bird is being or has been transferred;
 - the name and address of the person to whom eggs or other poultry products have been sold or gifted.
- (11) records of all poultry and other captive bird deaths and disposal must be kept and made available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:

- date of death and any clinical signs;
 - date of disposal and location of animal by-product disposal facility
- (12) bird keepers must immediately report to the Animal and Plant Health Agency any increased morbidity (illness) or mortality (deaths) or significant drop in egg production or, where relevant, feed or water intake, or other relevant information relating to the production of eggs on the premises.
- (13) buildings that house the birds are maintained and any defects that allow water ingress or other contamination to enter the building are rectified without undue delay.
- (14) Wild game birds “caught up” during the open season (under the Game Act 1831) must not be moved until a minimum of 21 days from the date of catching-up has elapsed, unless the movement is—
- (a) direct and licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector and which may be subject to conditions; or
 - (b) within the same premises.

The keeper must keep a record of the date of catching up and the number of birds caught up each day. The 21-day standstill applies from the date the last bird was caught up or the date the last bird arrives at the premises where they are to be kept.

A licence under 14(a) may not be granted unless a veterinary inspector has considered:

- (i) the risk of the possible spread of avian influenza if the licence were granted;
- (ii) the effectiveness of biosecurity at the destination to prevent contact between the birds moved and other birds; and
- (iii) any precautionary measures which should be taken before commencing, during or after the movement.

“caught up” in the context of this paragraph refers to the practice of gathering together wild game birds to be held in captivity for the purpose of restocking supplies of game or any breeding programme for the production of such birds.

Schedule 2 –Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with over 500 poultry or other captive birds

- (1) Any keeper of more than 500 poultry or other captive birds must, in addition to the minimum measures set out in Schedule 1, apply the following enhanced biosecurity measures in these separate parts of the poultry premises–
 - (a) a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part (for example, in the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘Specific’ area; and in Red Tractor as ‘defined biosecure areas’);
 - (b) a private (ancillary use) part (for example, in the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘General’ area; and in Red Tractor as ‘defined biosecure areas’); and
 - (c) a restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part.
- (2) The following measures apply to a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part of the premises–
 - (a) access is restricted to essential authorised personnel only;
 - (b) keepers must operate effective barrier hygiene, including changing clothing and footwear, before entering and on exit from the live-bird part;
 - (c) only essential equipment and vehicles are permitted to enter the live-bird part;
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles, including fork-lifts and pallet trolleys (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment which enter or leave the live-bird part of the premises must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit; and
 - (e) thorough cleansing and disinfecting (based on industry best practice) of housing and equipment must be undertaken at the end of a production cycle and before new birds are introduced; and
 - (f) records must be kept of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving the live-bird part.
- (3) The following measures apply to a private (ancillary use) part of the premises–
 - (a) access is limited to essential personnel only, and full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit to the part of the premises;
 - (b) this part of the premises should be fully separated from the live-bird part with a clear demarcation;
 - (c) waste and fallen stock must be held in appropriately biosecure facilities in this part of the premises with clear separation between both the live-bird part and the restricted access bio-secure barrier part; and
 - (d) the exterior of any vehicles (focussing on wheels and wheel arches) which enters or leaves the part must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit.
 - (e) egg producers should ensure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs / farm seconds is a managed in a biosecure manner. Plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected before use and records maintained as detailed in Schedule 1 (6).
- (4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part of the premises–
 - (a) access by the public should be controlled and only essential workers or contractors should enter this bio-secure barrier part; and
 - (b) non-essential vehicles must not enter this bio-secure barrier part.
 - (c) Keepers must regularly inspect the fabric and structural integrity of any building used to house poultry for holes and leaks, with particular emphasis on roofs, gutters and downpipes. Any holes and leaks must be repaired without undue delay as many recent cases of avian influenza have been linked to water ingress and flooding.
 - (d) wild game birds should not be fed within 500m of the restricted access part of the premises where this area is under the control of the keeper.

Schedule 3 – Requirement for poultry and other captive birds to be housed or otherwise kept separate from wild birds

Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds located within the zone must ensure they are kept in accordance with one or both measures set out in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(1) Poultry or other captive birds must be kept housed in accordance with the following conditions

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- (a) the buildings must be suitable for the purpose and it is the obligation of the keeper or such authorised person nominated by the keeper to check/inspect regularly that they continue to be;
- (b) any openings must be covered with suitable mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm mesh to prevent ingress from wild birds;
- (c) for ventilation systems all inlets/outlets are in a good state of repair and are either covered with suitably gauged mesh or netting (maximum mesh size of 25mm) or if an active ventilation system is present, that the blades are continuously moving 24 hours a day;
- (c) feed and bedding are kept inside;
- (d) measures are in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to areas under the control of the keeper, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds or other standing water;
- (e) there is regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access.

(2) Where it is not possible to house birds on welfare grounds (see paragraph 3), poultry or other captive birds must be kept isolated from wild birds in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas subject to the following conditions –

- (a) the outdoor area being fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds. Any mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm;
- (b) access to open or permanent standing water is restricted by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, or waterlogged land to prevent access by poultry or other captive birds;
- (c) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises;
- (d) feed and bedding are kept indoors;
- (e) feed and water are provided under cover where wild birds cannot gain access; and,
- (f) any carcasses of wild birds are removed from the outdoor fenced range / outdoor area;
- (g) there is regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access.
- (h) the range area is regularly inspected to ensure it is not contaminated with feathers or faecal material from wild birds and reasonable steps are taken to remove such contamination that may be present as soon as is practicable;
- (i) before placing any new structures or enclosures on land for the purpose of keeping poultry or other captive birds outdoors, the keeper must arrange for the inspection of the relevant site for feathers and faecal matter from wild birds and, if such material is discovered, remove such material;

- (j) measures are taken to discourage wild birds (in particular gulls, corvids and wild waterfowl) from entering the outdoor range area and that wild birds are not attracted to the vicinity of the outdoor range area,
 - (k) measures are in place to ensure that wild birds are not attracted to areas under the control of the keeper, in the vicinity of the outdoor area, in particular to watercourses, reservoirs, ponds or other standing water;
 - (l) proactive measures (for example, bird scarers, foils, streamers) are taken to discourage wild birds, (in particular gulls and wild waterfowl), from entering the fenced outdoor areas or congregating in the vicinity of the outdoor range area, in particular to open or standing water;
 - (m) there is regular inspection of the site and consideration that these conditions continue to be met, minimising the risk of contact with wild birds
- (3) For keepers of anseriformes, ratites or poultry kept for restocking of game, where the measures in paragraph 2(a) or 2 (b) of Schedule 3 are
- Impractical, due to the size or terrain of the area that needs to be covered or,
 - Are likely to have a negative effect on the welfare of the birds’,

the keeper of the birds or the occupier of the premises where the birds are kept must in consultation with a private veterinarian, within 14 days of this declaration coming into force; set out in writing a statement which details;

- a) the biosecurity measures which are being taken,
- b) the name and contact details of the private veterinarian consulted, and
- c) the biosecurity measures which are not being taken and the reasons the requirements set out in Schedule 3 cannot be met.

This statement must be signed and dated by the keeper of the birds, or the occupier of the premises where the birds are kept must be retained for a period of a minimum of twelve months from the date of signature and must be available for inspection upon request by an inspector or veterinary inspector.

- (4) No person shall release game birds in the zone.

In all cases keepers must ensure they meet the needs of their birds in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Schedule 4 – Zoos/Aquariums

- (1) A keeper of poultry or other captive birds kept at a premises licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981, may, as an alternative to Schedule 3, take reasonable and practicable measures to prevent potential disease spread including–
- (a) isolating groups of other captive birds not housed or fully enclosed in outdoor areas from all other poultry and other captive birds;
 - (b) assessing the risk of public access to indoor kept bird enclosures;
 - (c) controlling entry to outdoor kept bird enclosures including limiting to essential staff;
 - (d) requiring staff, keepers and volunteers to wear suitable personal protective equipment, in particular if they have direct contact with the birds;
 - (e) disinfectant mats should be installed at all points of entry and exit to bird areas / houses that are for use by visiting members of the public, if members of the public are to be admitted to areas of the zoo in which poultry or other captive birds are kept,
 - (f) handwashing facilities must be made available to visiting members of the public if the public are to be admitted to areas of the zoo in which poultry or other captive birds are kept; and
 - (g) in consultation with a private veterinarian, producing robust justification for any deviation and to demonstrate the zoo/aquarium has measures in place to minimise any disease spread from such un-netted outdoor enclosures.

Schedule 5 – Release of Racing Pigeons, Doves and other *Columbiformes*

- (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of Schedule 1 and 3, a keeper of racing pigeons, doves or other columbiformes may:
- (a) Temporarily let their birds out briefly before feeding each day to meet bird's welfare requirements for up to an hour. Lofts/bird houses must not be left open for several hours for the birds to come and go as they please. Contact between the racing pigeons, doves or other *Columbiformes* either directly or indirectly with wild birds must be minimised wherever possible.
 - (b) Pigeons from the same loft/pigeon house may also be transported to a point some distance from the home loft/pigeon house and released/liberated and allowed to return to the loft/pigeon house as part of a training and conditioning programme. The vehicle and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.
 - (c) Provided the gathering is registered with APHA and the conditions of the General Licence are complied with, pigeon racing and multi-loft training are permitted whilst the AIPZ is in force. Birds may be basketed, marked and transported to a liberation site and released to fly back to their home loft/pigeon house. The vehicle/transporter and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.
 - (d) Pigeons, doves and other *Columbiformes* may be transported to another location and released to fly free at functions and events provided the birds are either gathered again and returned to their home premises as soon as practical or they fly to return to their home premises. Care should be taken to avoid locations where there are large numbers of wild birds or domestic poultry. Events where birds from more than one premises are present is a bird gathering and must be registered with APHA and meet the conditions of the general licence for bird gatherings.

Schedule 6 – Flying from hand or under close control of birds of prey and other species (excludes anseriformes and galliformes)

- (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of Schedule 1 and 3, a keeper of birds of prey or other species of bird trained to fly from hand or under close control may:
 - (a) Temporarily let their birds out and fly them from hand each day to meet bird's welfare requirements for up to an hour each day. Lofts/bird houses must not be left open for the birds to come and go as they please. Contact between these birds either directly or indirectly with wild birds must be minimised wherever possible.
 - (b) Transport a bird of prey used for pest control to another place some distance from the home premises provided that place is not within a disease control zone and flown from hand for the purposes of pest control. The vehicle and baskets/boxes/transport must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.
 - (c) Provided the gathering is registered with APHA and the conditions of the General Licence are complied with, gatherings other than anseriformes and galliformes are permitted whilst the AIPZ is in force. The vehicle/transporter and baskets/boxes must be cleansed and disinfected using a government approved disinfectant.
 - (d) Birds of prey and other species (excluding anseriformes and galliformes) may be transported to another location and released to fly from hand or under close control at events provided the birds are either gathered again and returned to their home premises as soon as practical. Care should be taken to avoid locations where there are large numbers of wild birds or domestic poultry. Events where birds from more than one premises are present is a bird gathering and must be registered with APHA and meet the conditions of the general licence for bird gatherings.
 - (e) If during any free-flying from hand or under close control, visual contact with the bird is lost for more than a minute or the bird catches another wild bird, the bird must be isolated and closely monitored for a period of 14 days before being allowed to free-fly from hand or under close control again.

Schedule 7 - Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

The whole of England.

The [interactive map](#) is available.