



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/57

05 December 2024

### OUTBREAK OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN NEW ZEALAND

#### Purpose

1. To inform you that, owing to an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in New Zealand, consignments of wild game meat and meat products should be held.

#### Background

2. New Zealand reported its first case of HPAI (H7N6) on 1 December 2024: [WOAH](#). This was confirmed on a free-range commercial layer chicken farm in East Otago in the South Island.
3. New Zealand is currently approved for the importation into Great Britain of:
  - a. Wild game meat (WGM) as set out in the [Poultry and Poultry Products](#) third country list.
  - b. Wild game meat products as set out in the [Meat Products](#) third country list.
4. New Zealand is also listed for:
  - a. Poultry meat (POU), ratite meat (RAT), eggs (E) and egg products (EP). However, New Zealand does not have the necessary approved residue control plans to export these commodities to GB.
  - b. Live poultry (DOC, BPP, SRP and LT20), live ratites (BPR, DOR, SRA), poultry hatching eggs (HEP), and ratite hatching eggs (HER). However, New Zealand does not have an approved Salmonella Control Plan to permit export of these commodities to GB.
  - c. Specified pathogen-free eggs (SPF). However, the certificates for these products include assurances to address the risk of introduction of HPAI.

5. The UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance is currently assessing the need for amendment to New Zealand's listings, taking into account the terms of the [UK-New Zealand SPS Agreement](#). Once this is clarified, a separate OVS note will be published to outline any new import restrictions or requirements for the import of wild game meat and meat products from New Zealand.
6. In the meantime, consignments of wild game meat and meat products should be held, with the UK Office for SPS Trade Assurance contacted for advice at [ukassurance@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk).
7. For animal by-products, please refer to the specific requirements for the country listing in the relevant Import Information Note and in the GB import certificate to assess compliance.
8. We will keep you informed of developments.

#### **Action for OVSs**

9. To note the above information.

#### **Contact point for enquiries**

**Email:** [imports@apha.gov.uk](mailto:imports@apha.gov.uk)  
[ukassurance@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ukassurance@defra.gov.uk)

*Imports and EU Trade Team*