

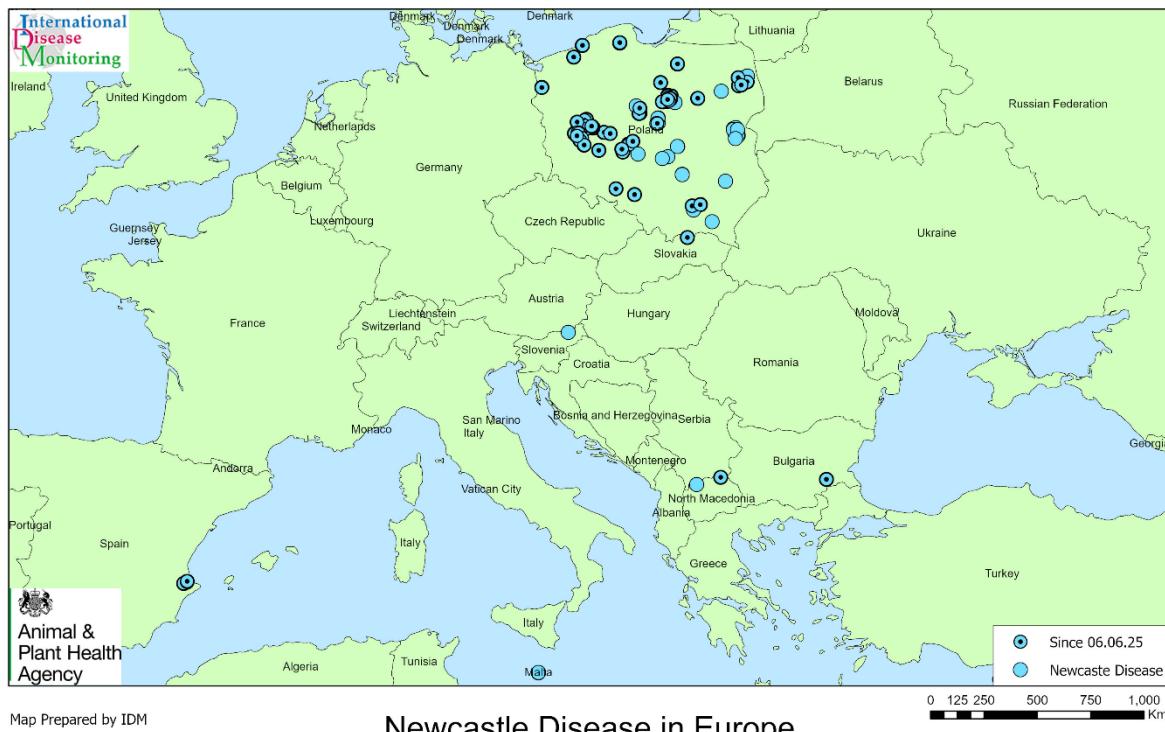
## Preliminary Outbreak Assessment #2

# Newcastle disease (ND) in Spain, Poland and Europe

26 January 2026

### Disease report

Since our previous outbreak assessment on the 6 June 2025 ([6 June 2025: Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)) Poland has reported a further 66 outbreaks of Newcastle disease (ND) in commercial poultry farms to 21 January 2026 according to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), with new detections in the north and west of the country (see map 1). ND has also been detected south of Poland in Slovakia with a single outbreak in a small poultry farm in December 2025. In late December 2025, ND was reported in eastern Spain for the first time since July 2022 with 4 outbreaks in commercial poultry farms, and in mid-January 2026 a fifth farm was reported to be affected, around 10 km south-west of the other outbreaks. Both Bulgaria and North Macedonia reported single outbreaks of ND in commercial poultry in the summer of 2025. It is also notable that the number of outbreaks in captive birds on non-commercial farms has increased significantly in eastern Europe from 7 in both September and October to 40 in December. According to the Animal Disease Information System (ADIS), Poland reported 28 outbreaks in December 2025 and 20 outbreaks in November 2025. In addition, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia all reported outbreaks in non-commercial (captive bird) farms in December 2025. Outbreaks on non-commercial farms have continued into 2026 on ADIS with 6 in the Czech Republic and 6 in Poland up to 21 January 2026.



Newcastle Disease in Europe  
01 January 2025 to 26 January 2026  
(WOAH Data Only)

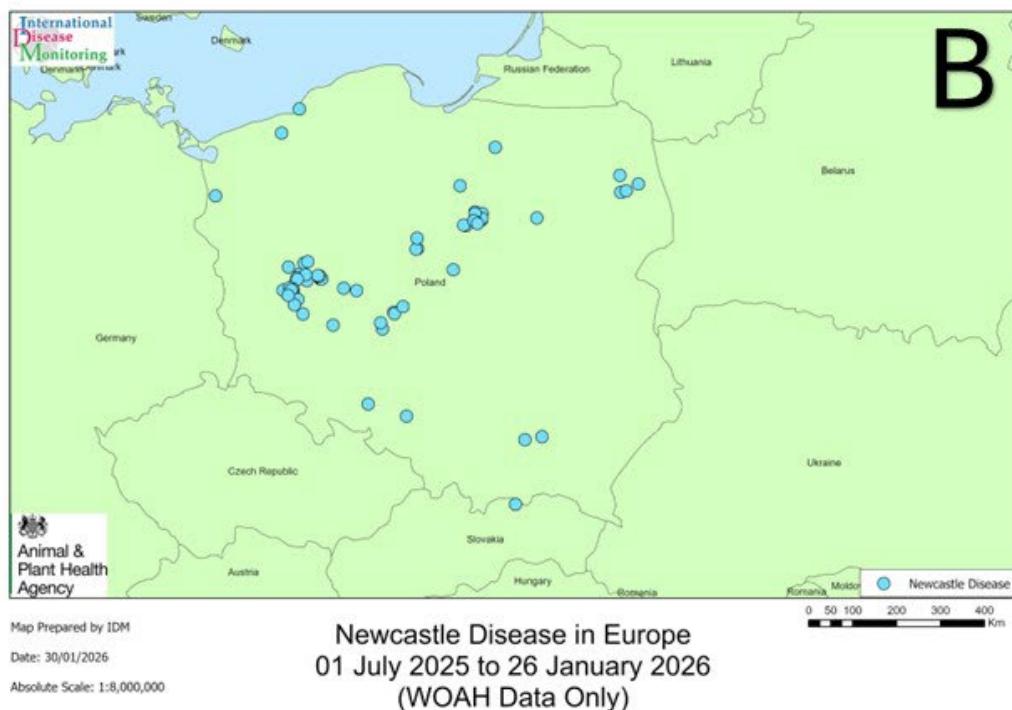
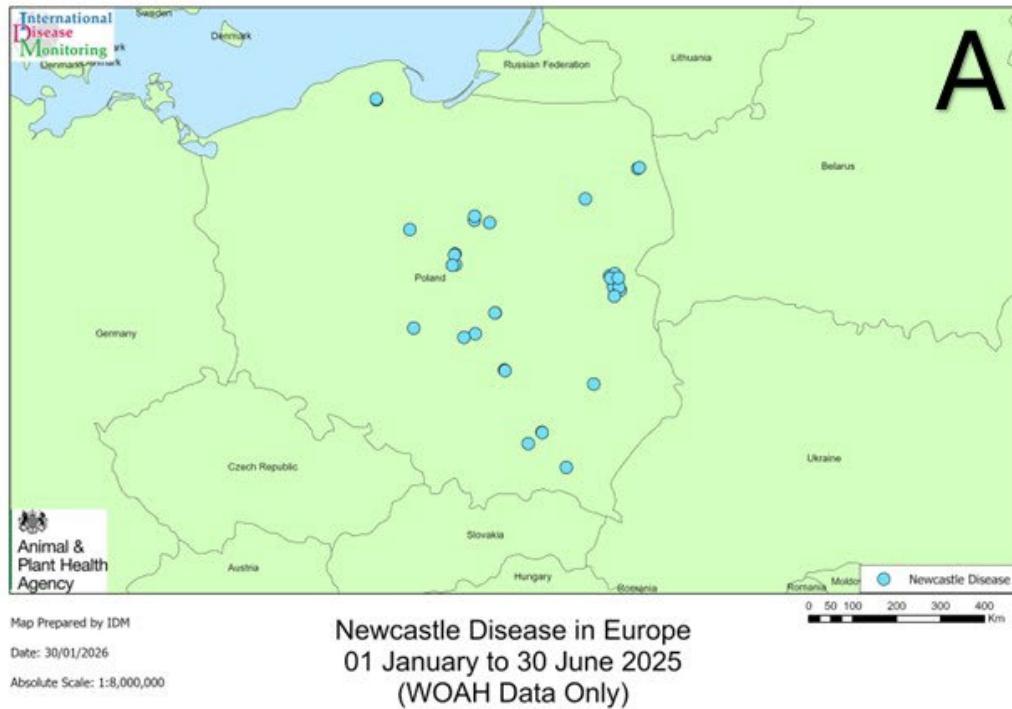
**Map 1: Map of Europe showing outbreaks of Newcastle disease in domestic commercial poultry reported to WOAH from 1 January 2025 to 26 January 2026. Those events since our previous outbreak assessment on 6 June 2025 have dotted centres, with new detections in northern and western Poland and a single point south into neighbouring Slovakia. There are also new foci in eastern Spain, Bulgaria and North Macedonia since 6 June 2025.**

## Situation assessment

Newcastle disease (ND) is the result of infection in poultry with avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1). On 23 December 2025, ND was detected in Spain in poultry on a broiler farm with 15,000 chickens in the municipality of Llutxent in the province of Valencia. This is the first report of ND in Spain since July 2022 when three outbreaks of ND were detected in the province of Almeria in the south of the country. Three further outbreaks in broiler chicken farms considered as secondary to the primary outbreak were also detected in late December 2025. All three farms were located within the restriction zone established around the first outbreak. Geographical proximity to the primary outbreak is considered the most likely cause of virus introduction in two of the secondary outbreaks, while in the third, clear epidemiological links have also been identified with the primary outbreak farm. Since then, ND has been detected in a fifth poultry farm with 75,822 birds on the 14 January 2026. This farm is also in Valencia but 10 km south-west of the first 4 farms.

To 21 January 2026, Poland has reported a further 66 outbreaks of ND in poultry since our previous assessment on the 6 June 2025 ([6 June 2025: Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)) according to WOAH (see Map 1). From June 2025 to November 2025 between 2 and 11 outbreaks were reported in Poland every month to WOAH. The exception was in September as there were no outbreaks between 12 August 2025 and 13 October 2025 according to PAFF (2025). However, there were 20 outbreaks in commercial poultry in Poland in December 2025 according to WOAH, indicating a marked increase with a further 12 commercial poultry outbreaks reported to ADIS from 1 January 2026 to 21 January 2026.

According to genome sequencing data (PAFF 2025) there have been two independent introductions of genotype VII.1.1 highly virulent neurotropic velogenic strains into Poland. The first was in July 2023 and the second was in September 2024, with both genetically closest to the Russian strain from 2022.



**Map 2: Map of Poland showing outbreaks of Newcastle disease in domestic commercial poultry reported to WOAH from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025 (A)**

**and from 1 July 2025 to 26 January 2026 (B). New detections in northern and western Poland are apparent in the second half of 2025 together with the outbreak in Slovakia.**

Map 2 compares the distribution of poultry outbreaks in Poland in the first half of 2025 (from 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025) with that in the second half (from 1 July 2025 to 26 January 2026) based on data from WOAH. In the second half of 2025 outbreaks are notable further west and further north within Poland than observed in the first half of 2025. A recent outbreak from December 2025 is near to the eastern border of Germany (see Map 1).

To the south of Poland, ND has also been reported on WOAH in Slovakia with an outbreak detected on 14 December 2025 in a small poultry farm with 26 chickens.

Outbreaks in non-commercial farms (captive birds) are not reported on WOAH and are not shown in Map 1. In our previous assessment on 6 June 2025 we noted that Poland had reported an additional 27 outbreaks in non-commercial farms (captive birds) since 1 January 2025. In the update to PAFF on November 2025 (PAFF 2025), it was reported that the total number of non-commercial farm outbreaks in Poland to November in 2025 was 60, with a further 32 new outbreaks since 17 June 2025. Data from ADIS show 67 non-commercial farm (captive birds) outbreaks from June 2025 to December 2025 with a marked increase in the number of outbreaks in non-commercial farms (captive birds) at the end of 2025. Specifically there were 20 captive bird outbreaks in Poland in November and 28 in December, taking the total for 2025 on ADIS to 94 for Poland. Between 1 and 21 January 2026 a further 6 non-commercial poultry (captive bird) outbreaks have been reported in Poland on ADIS. Poland have started an awareness campaign, providing guidance to keepers, is strengthening laboratory capacity, and is trialling vaccinating backyard flocks. Vaccination has been mandatory for chicken (broiler, layers and breeders) and turkey flocks since April 2025 (discussed in our previous assessment [6 June 2025: Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)).

The increase in outbreaks in non-commercial farms (captive birds) in eastern Europe at the end of 2025 and into early 2026 has not been limited to Poland according to data from ADIS. Thus, the Czech Republic reported 7 non-commercial farm (captive bird) outbreaks in December 2025 and a further 6 non-commercial farm (captive bird) outbreaks in January 2026 (to 21 January 2026). Previously, the Czech Republic reported 3 in November 2025 with 2, 2 and 1 outbreaks in August, September and October, respectively. There was also 1 non-commercial farm (captive bird) outbreak in Latvia in December 2025, and 4 in Slovakia in December 2025, following 1 in November 2025 according to data from ADIS.

## **Implications for Great Britain**

Great Britain applies disease safeguard measures and lists countries and regions approved for export of live poultry and poultry meat according to regionalisation.

Therefore, no such products can be consigned to Great Britain from a disease restriction zone. Nevertheless, there are uncertainties around why there have been a large number of outbreaks in Eastern Europe and beyond. Many of the outbreaks are in broiler farms, where vaccination is not likely to be continuously applied due to high turnover of birds and short lifespans. However, whether there are any wild (including game) bird incursions responsible for the new foci of affected poultry is not known.

As of 25 April 2025, it has been mandatory to vaccinate flocks on commercial farms against ND in the entire territory of Poland. As discussed in our previous assessment on the 6 June 2025 ([6 June 2025: Newcastle disease \(ND\) in Poland and Europe](#)), it is well documented that outbreaks of ND can still occur in the face of vaccination. Rather than the vaccines being ineffective, it is considered more likely that the emergence of ND in vaccinated flocks is due to vaccine protocols or a build-up in infection pressure as a result of low vaccination rates in non-commercial flocks.

While ND has mainly been localised to eastern Europe in 2025, the recent detections in poultry in Spain pose a higher risk to Great Britain this spring when many passerines and other wild bird species migrate north through the East Atlantic Flyway. Migratory wild bird species could include turtle doves, although their numbers have decreased recently. While the risk to poultry in Great Britain remains low, the risk has increased within the low risk range, and it will be important to monitor the spread of ND within Spain in February and March.

## Conclusion

Newcastle disease virus appears to be spreading in commercial poultry in Poland with 20 outbreaks in December 2025, up from 10 in November 2025, and already 12 in January 2026. In addition, 5 outbreaks in commercial poultry have been detected in Spain since the end of December 2025 for the first time since July 2022. Comparing monthly reports on ADIS, there has been a marked increase in December 2025 in outbreaks in non-commercial farms (captive birds) in Eastern Europe. This is particularly notable in Poland and in neighbouring Slovakia and The Czech Republic.

Although the infection pressure in Europe is increasing, the risk of introduction of ND into poultry in Great Britain is considered to be unchanged at Low. Regionalisation is in place to prevent introduction of ND via trade, but disease may be introduced via illegal trade, wild birds or fomites and these events highlight the background risk to commercial poultry from feral pigeons as potential carriers of ND. Pigeon paramyxovirus type 1 (PPMV-1) is endemic in pigeons in Great Britain and Europe.

Importantly, the association of wild birds with APMV-1 infection remains poorly understood and so, with the exception of Columbiformes that maintain an endemic cycle of PPMV-1, risk factors from different wild birds and migratory pathways are hard to define. Current outbreaks in poultry across Europe are not caused by PPMV-1

strains and so a significant knowledge gap remains in the role and risk of different avian species and APMV-1 infection.

It is recommended that poultry keepers consider vaccinating their flocks and practice good biosecurity. Vaccines for ND with marketing authorisations are commercially available in the UK and vaccination is common in most, if not all, commercial layers, layer breeders and broiler breeders. It is also common in most turkey breeders and some commercial turkeys and broilers ([Newcastle disease in Europe](#)).

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, particularly in the Netherlands, as this is an important exotic disease which will be a concern for Europe in terms of its ability to spread and the impact on poultry.

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PAFF (2025) ([Presentation: PAFF Committee – Animal health and welfare - 20-21 November 2025 - Newcastle Disease - Poland](#))



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