Scottish Government

DECLARATION OF AN AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE

THE AVIAN INFLUENZA AND INFLUENZA OF AVIAN ORIGIN IN MAMMALS (SCOTLAND) ORDER 2006

Scottish Ministers have carried out a risk assessment under article 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin (Scotland) Order 2006[1] ("the Order").

To reduce the risk of transmission of avian influenza to poultry or to other captive birds in Scotland from wild birds or from any other source, the Scottish Ministers consider it necessary to declare the whole of Scotland to be an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

The measures set out in the Annex to this Declaration apply to the whole of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

The measures set out in the Annex apply from **12 pm (noon) on 10 November 2026** until this Declaration is revoked or amended by further declaration.

Signed

Jesus Gallego

At 12:00 noon on Tuesday 10 November 2026

A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers

Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under section 73 of the Animal Health Act 1981 liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to both.

Copies of this Declaration and of the Order are available at www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza and from the Animal Health and Welfare, Scottish Government Agricultural and Rural Economy Directorate, Saughton House, Edinburgh

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Annex – Measures applying in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

Measures applying to all keepers of poultry or other captive birds

1. Any keeper of poultry or other captive birds must take all appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that:

(a) precautions are taken to avoid the transfer of virus contamination between premises or parts of premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear;

(b) foot dips containing disinfectant (in accordance with paragraph 7) are placed at all entry and exit points of any part of the premises where poultry and other birds are kept, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear;

(c) any person entering and exiting the part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept, cleanses and disinfects their footwear using the dips, or alternatively, changes footwear when moving between parts of the premises where poultry and other captive birds are kept and other parts of the premises;

(d) feed, water and bedding are stored under cover and in a way to prevent exposure to bird droppings;

(e) access to feed water and bedding by wild birds and rodents is prevented;

(f) anseriformes, including ducks and geese, are not kept in the same pen or building as other bird species (other than in a zoo);

(g) rodent control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept:

(h) Except at a zoo (as defined in paragraph 6), the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept is reduced to only the following:

(i) monitoring the health and welfare of the poultry or other captive birds;
(ii) collecting eggs;
(iii) moving poultry or other captive birds for the purposes of restocking or slaughter;
(iv) provision of feeding, watering, bedding and medicines and;
(v) official inspections

(i) except at a zoo (as defined in paragraph 6) records are kept 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 or any other captive birds;

(j) records are kept of the poultry, other captive birds or eggs leaving the premises including:

(i) the quantity and description (including species of poultry or other captive bird, and type of eggs);
(ii) the date of the movement off the premises;
(iii) the premises of destination (if known); and

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(iv) the name and address of the person to whom ownership or possession is being or has been transferred;

(k) records kept under (i) and (j) are made available to a veterinary inspector on demand;

(l) the fabric and structural integrity of any buildings used to house poultry or other captive birds are regularly inspected for holes or leaks, with particular emphasis on areas which could allow access to wild birds, rodents and water, such as roofs, gutters, windows, doors and downpipes;

(m) any holes and leaks discovered upon inspection under paragraph (l) must be repaired without undue delay to prevent water ingress or other routes of contamination;

(n) birds taken from the wild for the purposes of restocking supplies of game must not be moved from the premises into which they are taken until a period of 21 days from the date of taking of the last bird has elapsed, unless the movement is direct and licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector;

(o) records are kept of birds taken from the wild for the purpose of restocking supplies of game as described in paragraph (n) including:

(i) number of birds taken;
(ii) date of taking;
(iii) deaths of any birds between the first date of taking any birds and the end of the 21-day period referred to in paragraph (n);

(p) Poultry or other captive birds are not fed on, or allowed to feed upon, wild birds or wild bird carrion.

Measures applying to all keepers of poultry or other captive birds

2. Any keeper of poultry or other captive birds, where the poultry or other captive birds have access to an outdoor area ("an outdoor range area") must (in addition to the other measures in this Annex)-

a) fence any outdoor range area to keep the poultry or other captive birds within the outdoor range area;

b) not give anseriformes, such as ducks or geese, access to the same outdoor range area as other poultry or captive birds, and house ducks or geese that have access to an outdoor area separately from other poultry or captive birds;

c) inspect the site regularly to ensure these measures are maintained, minimising the risk of contamination; and

d) actively manage the outdoor area to ensure that-

(i) wild birds, in particular gulls and wild waterfowl, are discouraged from entering the outdoor range, in particular to open or standing water;
(ii) carcases of wild birds are removed from the outdoor range area;
(iii) before placing any new structures or enclosure on land for the purpose of keeping poultry or other captive birds, the keeper must inspect the relevant

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site for evidence of wild bird contamination and remove such material where practicable;

(iv) except at a zoo (as defined in paragraph 6), access to open water (including waterlogged land) by poultry or other captive birds is prevented by fencing off or netting;

(v) fencing or other barriers are in place so there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises;

(vi) feed and water are kept indoors, and poultry and other captive birds are fed indoors or under covered area, which sufficiently discourages the landing of wild birds and thereby prevents contact by wild birds with the feed and water of the poultry or other captive birds; and

(vii) there is regular cleansing and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds and wild birds have access.

Additional Measures applying to keepers of more than 500 poultry

3. Any keeper of more than 500 poultry must (in addition to the other measures in this Annex) apply the following enhanced biosecurity measures:

(a) The following measures apply to any part of the premises where poultry are kept:

(i) access must be restricted to essential authorised personnel only;

(ii) effective barrier hygiene must be operated, including changing clothing and footwear before entering and upon exit;

(iii) only essential equipment and vehicles may enter;

(iv) the exterior of any vehicles (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment that enters or leaves must be cleansed and disinfected upon both entry and exit;

(v) thorough cleansing and disinfecting of housing and equipment must be undertaken at the end of a production cycle and before new birds are introduced;

(vi) records must be kept of:

i. vehicles, personnel, and visitors entering and leaving;

ii. the number, or approximate number, of poultry (if any) on the premises;

iii. the number of poultry falling ill on the premises;

iv. the number of poultry dying on the premises;

v. the amount of feed and, where possible, water being consumed by any poultry on the premises;

vi. any egg production on the premises;

(vii) access by the public should be controlled and only essential workers and contractors should enter: and

(viii) non-essential vehicles must not enter.

(b) The following measures apply to any part of the premises for ancillary uses:

(i) access must be limited to essential personnel only, and full biosecurity practices adopted upon entry and exit;

(ii) this part of the premises should be fully separated with clear demarcation, from the part of the premises where poultry is kept;

(iii) waste and fallen stock must be held in appropriately biosecure facilities in this part of the premises with clear separation between both the part of the

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premises where poultry is kept and the part of the premises which form a restricted biosecure barrier;

(iv) the exterior of any vehicles (particularly wheels and wheel arches) which enter or leave must be cleansed and disinfected upon entry and exit; and

(v) any plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected before use, and the packing, handling and storage of eggs which are damaged or contaminated with foreign matter must be managed in a biosecure manner.

(c) A keeper of more than 500 poultry must not feed wild game birds in any area controlled by the keeper within 500 metres of any premises upon which the poultry are kept.

(d) A keeper of more than 500 poultry must immediately notify an authorised veterinary inspector (through the Animal and Plant Health Agency) of:

(i) the presence of clinical signs that could be associated with avian influenza;

(ii) any unexplained significant increase in daily morbidity (illness) or daily mortality (deaths), including where this increase is three times or more the normal daily morbidity or mortality rate of the flock;

(iii) any significant reduction in daily egg production including where the reduction represents more than five percent (>5%) of the average daily egg production for that flock in the previous week; or

(iv) any significant reduction in daily feed and/or water intake including where the reduction represents more than five percent (>5%) of the average daily feed or water intake for that flock or epidemiological unit in the previous week.

Measures applying to the release of pigeons and doves

4. (a) The measures in paragraph 1 (measures applying to all keepers of poultry or other captive birds) do not apply in relation to a keeper of pigeons or doves to the extent necessary to allow the transport of pigeons or doves, kept in the same pigeon house or loft, away from the premises on which they are kept and to another location for the following purposes:

(i) the release of the release of pigeons or doves in order to freely fly back to their pigeon house or loft as part of a training and conditioning routine;

(ii) to attend a race, multi-loft training or other bird gathering held in accordance with a licence granted under article 4 (prohibition on fairs, markets, shows and other gatherings) of the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Order 20072 and their release to freely fly back to their pigeon house or loft; and

(iii) the release of pigeons or doves to freely fly at a function or event, after which they are either gathered and transported back to the premises where they are kept or allowed to freely fly back to their pigeon house or loft;

(b) Vehicles, baskets or boxes used to transfer pigeons or doves in accordance with paragraph 4(a) must be cleansed and disinfected before and after they are used to transport pigeons or doves;

(c) The measures in paragraph 4(a) do not permit the transport of pigeons or doves where either the premises on which the pigeons or doves are kept or the location to which they are being transported is located in a notifiable avian disease control zone;

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Measures applying to birds from hand under close control

5. (a) The measures in paragraph 1 (measures applying to all keepers of poultry or other captive birds) do not apply in relation to a keeper of birds of prey or other birds (excluding anseriformes and galliformes) who have been trained to fly from hand under close control to the extent necessary to allow the transport of those birds away from the premises on which they are kept and to another location for the following purposes:

(i) to release a bird to allow it to fly from hand under close control for the purposes of pest control;
(ii) to attend a bird gathering held in accordance with a licence granted under article;
(iii) (prohibition on fairs, markets, shows and other gatherings) of the Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Scotland) Order 2007 and to release birds at the bird gathering in order to fly from hand under close control; and
(iv) the release of birds to fly from hand under close control at a function or event.

(b) After birds are allowed to fly from hand under close control for one of the purposes specified in paragraph 5(a), they must be gathered and transported back to the premises on which they are kept;

(c) Vehicles, baskets or boxes used to transfer birds in accordance with paragraphs 5(a) and (b) must be cleansed and disinfected before and after they are used to transport birds;

(d) The measures in paragraph 5(a) do not permit the transport of birds where either the premises on which the birds are kept or the location to which they are being transported is located in a notifiable avian disease control zone;

(e) If, during the course of allowing birds to fly from hand under close control for one of the purposes specified in paragraph 5(a), visual contact with the bird is lost for more than a minute or the bird catches another bird, or consumes avian carrion, the keeper must gather the bird and transport it back to the premises on which it is kept and keep the bird isolated and closely monitored for a period of 14 days before it can be released to fly from hand under close control again.

Definitions

6. In this Annex –

(a) “keeper” means any person responsible for birds, whether on a temporary or permanent basis, but does not include a person responsible for them solely because they are transporting them;

(b) “poultry” means a bird reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, or of other products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of such categories of birds;

(c) “other captive birds” means a bird kept in captivity which is not poultry and includes a bird kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or for sale;

(d) “pigeons or doves” means any bird of the order Columbiformes;

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(e) “notifiable avian disease control zone means a protection zone, surveillance zone, restricted zone, temporary control zone or temporary movement restriction zone declared in Scotland under the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006 or the Diseases of Poultry (Scotland) Order 2003;

(f) “premises” includes any land, place of business or other place where poultry or other captive birds are kept;

(g) references to the “part of the premises” where poultry, or other captive birds, are kept means any structure or open area which is used to keep poultry, or other captive birds, and includes contiguous ancillary areas such as bird feed bins, or for the storage of bird manure;

(h) “vehicle” includes any means of transport and includes –

(i) a trailer, semi-trailer or other thing designed or adapted to be towed by another vehicle;

(i) a detachable part of any vehicle;
(ii) a container or other structure designed or adapted to be carried on a vehicle;

(j) “veterinary inspector” means a veterinary inspector appointed by the Scottish Ministers;

(k) “wild game bird” means a bird which lives freely in the wild and is of a species that is hunted for human consumption;

(l) “zoo” (which can include an aquarium) means a zoo within the meaning of section 1(2) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 [1981 c.37], which is operated under the 9 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.

Disinfectants

7. In this Annex, requirements relating to disinfection, or the use of disinfectants, require the use of the disinfectants:

(a) authorised by the Scottish Ministers under the Disease of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Scotland) Order 2008;

(b) at the concentrations approved under that Order, and

(c) in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions (if any), or, if a veterinary inspector has instructed otherwise, in accordance with the instructions of the veterinary inspector.

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