



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (“the Department”) has carried out a risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of regulation 6(1) of the Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (“the Regulations”).

To reduce the risk of the transmission of avian influenza to poultry or other captive birds from wild birds or from any other source, the Department considers it necessary to declare the whole of Northern Ireland as an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone and the following measures will apply within the Zone.

Measures applying within the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone

Any person in charge of poultry and/or captive birds must take all appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that:

- a) they adopt one or more of the following:
 - i. birds are housed;
 - ii. birds are kept totally separate from wild birds, by use of netting;
 - iii. birds are allowed controlled access to outside areas by applying the additional biosecurity mitigation measures set out in Annex 1.
- b) effective steps are taken to reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry or captive birds are kept to minimise contamination from manure, slurry, litter and other products between premises. Robust records must be maintained of any movements in or out of the poultry or other captive birds area;
- c) the site is regularly inspected and kept clean, any spillages are immediately cleaned;
- d) poultry and other captive birds are provided with feed and water which is not accessible to wild birds.
- e) when accessing areas with poultry or other captive birds, dedicated or disposable footwear is used;
- f) boot dips using approved disinfectant at the right concentration are kept at all points where people should use them, such as, but not limited to, farm entrances and before entering poultry housing or enclosures;
- g) domestic waterfowl (ducks and geese) are kept separately from, and cannot make contact with, other domestic species;
- h) housing and equipment is thoroughly cleansed and disinfected at the end of the production cycle;
- i) any person who comes into contact with poultry and other captive birds must take all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between

premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear;

- j) steps are taken to implement effective vermin control programmes, including preventing the entry of wild birds, around buildings where poultry or captive birds are kept;
- k) regular health checks of the birds are completed and any changes in bird health are discussed with a private veterinarian;
- l) the collection together of poultry at any fair, market, show, exhibition, race or other gathering is prohibited.
- m) the collection together of other captive birds at any fair, market, show, exhibition, race or other gathering is prohibited except under the authority and in accordance with the conditions of a licence granted by the Department.
- n) Pigeon racing from Great Britain is now permitted.
- o) Specific licences for movement of poultry and poultry products from and to Northern Ireland remain in place.

These measures apply from 00:01 on 1 May 2017 until 00:01 on 31 May 2017

This declaration is made under regulation 6(1)(a) of the Regulations

Signed



Robert Huey
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
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Time 10:00am Date 28 April 2017

Authorised by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Failure to comply with this Declaration may be an offence under article 52 of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 and where found guilty of an offence shall be liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

Notes:

“poultry” which may not benefit from the general licence means birds of the family galliforme (including pheasants, partridge, quail, chickens, turkey, guinea fowl), birds of the family anseriforme (including ducks, geese, swans), birds that are reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of these categories of bird.

“other captive bird” means Columbiformes (including doves and pigeons), Passerines (including finches, budgerigar, canary), Psittaciformes (including parrots, macaws,

cockatiels), Falconiformes (including hawks, harriers, buzzards, eagles), Strigiformes (including owls).

Vehicles used to transport poultry or other captive birds shall be cleansed and disinfected in accordance with The Transport of Animals and Poultry (Cleansing and Disinfection) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Guidance on housing and additional biosecurity measures of birds may be found in biosecurity guidance via

www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biosecurity-and-preventing-welfare-impacts-poultry-and-captive-birds

Frequently asked questions on the Prevention Zone are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/avian-influenza-ai

Copies of this Declaration and of the Regulations are available at www.daera-ni.gov.uk and from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT3 4SU.

Annex 1 – Additional biosecurity Mitigation Measures

Those keepers who wish to provide their birds with controlled access to outside areas must ensure that they follow the following risk mitigation measures:

- a) before allowing poultry to use a range after a period of housing, the range must be checked and any obvious contamination from wild birds, carcasses, or other contaminated material must be removed;
- b) restrict access to open or standing water by fencing off and netting ponds, standing water, or waterlogged land to prevent access by poultry or other captive birds;
- c) take measures to discourage vermin and wild birds, in particular gulls and wild waterfowl, from entering the fenced outdoor areas;
- d) regularly cleaning and disinfecting all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds have access;
- e) remove feeders and water stations from the range and provide feed and clean water under cover where wild birds cannot gain access.