

Update on Avian Influenza 07/2018 12 March 2018

Third wild bird positive for H5N6 in Ireland

- Avian influenza subtype H5N6 has been confirmed in a white tailed sea eagle that was found dead on Cribby Island, Mountshannon, Co. Clare.
- The bird was found on the 06 March 2018.
- This is the third positive wild bird finding in Ireland this year.

Figure 1. Location of the third H5N6 positive wild bird (green marker), and previous two positive wild birds (blue and red markers)



In addition the strain of H5N6 that was detected in the second wild bird in Ireland on 06/03/2018 (a common buzzard) has been confirmed as highly pathogenic, as expected.

HPAI in Europe

- Since the last update of the 08 March 2018, there has been one outbreak of HPAI H5N8 in a laying hen flock in the province of Brescia in Northern Italy.

Situational assessment

- The situation in Ireland has not substantially changed since the last update issued 08/03/2018 and is being kept under constant review.
- The advice to flock owners is still to remain vigilant to the threat of avian influenza and take specific measures to protect their flocks including minimising access to wild birds by feeding poultry indoors for example.

Risk to Human Health

The HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSE-HPSC) and the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) advise that the risk to public health from H5N8 and H5N6 avian influenza is very low. FSAI (Food Safety Authority of Ireland) has also confirmed that poultry meat is safe to eat, provided that it is handled hygienically cooked thoroughly prior to consumption.

However, as a precaution the Department advises that only people wearing personal protective equipment collect dead or sick birds. Flock owners and members of the public are not advised to touch dead or sick birds and to report them immediately to the Avian Influenza Hotline at (076) 106 4403 during normal office hours or (1850) 200 456 outside of normal office hours.

Further information

- Specific biosecurity advice can be found here: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/biosecurityadvice/
- Flock owners are also reminded to update their registration details. On-line registration is now possible. Full details can be found [here](#).
- There is now a link to the avian influenza section of the website from the home page – see Current Topics on the top left of the screen: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

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