

Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe

10 January 2018

United Kingdom

- HPAI H5N6 has been confirmed for the first time on 9 January 2018 in three mute swans in Dorset. The swans were found dead on wetlands along the south coast in a high-risk area due to the large numbers of migratory wild waterfowl. The H5N6 strain is closely related to the H5N6 found in Dutch birds in December 2017. Tests show it is distinguishable from the Asian H5N6 strain.

Germany

- A duck has tested positive for HPAI H5N6 on 4 January 2018. It is the first reported case of HPAI H5N6 in Germany this year.

Netherlands

- Since the last DAFM update in December, a further four dead swans have tested positive for HPAI H5N6 in the same region as the previous HPAI H5N6 outbreaks and events in poultry, captive and wild birds.

Switzerland

- On 28 December 2017 Switzerland reported a dead mute swan testing positive for HPAI H5N6. The strain is closely linked to the same strain H5N8/H5N6 strains previously reported in Europe.



Figure 1. The locations of European HPAI H5N6 outbreaks or events since 22 December 2017.

Situation assessment

The positive HPAI H5N6 in wild birds in the United Kingdom is of concern as it is their first case and also evidence that H5N6 is being spread by migratory birds. The risk to Ireland is that H5N6 may be introduced into Ireland by migratory wild birds.

- Preliminary genetic analyses indicate that the current European H5N6 is a different strain to the Asian H5N6 strain.
- To date no human infections with the European HPAI H5N6 strain have been reported.

Further Information

1. DAFM will continue to monitor the situation in Europe closely and the advice to poultry flock owners, including owners of backyard poultry, is to remain **vigilant to the threat of avian influenza** and implement strategic, ongoing biosecurity measures – in particular feeding birds indoors or under cover, and discouraging wild birds from the poultry premises. Further information on biosecurity can be found at:

https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/informationonthepoultryindustry/

2. Flock owners are also reminded to update their registration details. A temporary, dedicated Poultry Registration and Update Unit was established by the Department to facilitate this and may be contacted on lo-call 0761064449 or by emailing PoultryRegUpdate@agriculture.gov.ie
3. Bird gatherings (shows, exhibitions and races) are allowed but permitted under general licence, and conditions include:
 - Compliance with the measures set out in the schedule to the licence.
 - Records are to be kept of all participants, buyers, sellers, including their names, home addresses and contact telephone numbers, and the number and type of birds that they had.
 - Advance notice must be given to the Department not less than 2 working days prior to its taking place.

More information, including the application forms and compliance measures, is available on the Department website:

https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/informationonshowsexhibitionsraces/

4. Members of the public are asked to report wild birds that have been found dead, particularly birds that are included on the high risk list, to the Department by contacting the DAFM Avian Influenza helpline (Tel: **0761064403**) or their local Regional Veterinary Office the contact details for which can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/contact/>

The high risk list of wild birds can be found in the Annex to this document.

NDCC and Border Inspection Posts Division

ANNEX

List of wild birds to be targeted for AI surveillance (H5 HPAI) in Ireland

Based on passive surveillance data 2005-2017, produced by EFSA*

Family	Sub Family tribe or genus	Species
Ducks geese and swans (anatidae)	Diving ducks (Aythyini)	Tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)
		Greater scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)
		Common pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)
	Dabbling ducks (Anatinae)	Northern pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)
		Eurasian wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)
		Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)
		Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)
		Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)
	Sea Ducks (Mergini)	Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)
		Common goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)
		Smew (<i>Mergus albellus</i>)
		Common eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)
	Sheel Ducks and Shell Geese (Tadorninae)	Common shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)
		Greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)
		Canada goose (<i>Branta canadensis</i>)
		Pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)
		Brant goose (<i>Branta bernicla</i>)
		Greater white-fronted goose (<i>Anser alnifrons</i>)
		Egyptian goose (<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>)**
		Taiga bean Goose (<i>Anser fabalis</i>)**
	Swans (<i>Cygnus</i>)	Black swan (<i>Cygnus atratus</i>)
		Whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)
Mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)		
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	Black-necked grebe (<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>)	
	Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	
	Little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	
Hérons (Ardeidae)	Little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	
	Grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	
	Great white egret (<i>Egretta alba</i>)**	

Cormorants and shags (Phalacrocoracidae)		Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)
Raptors (Accipitridae, Falconidae, Strigidae)		White-tailed eagle (<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>)
		Northern goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)
		Common buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)
		Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
		Rough-legged buzzard (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)**
		Eurasian eagle-owl (<i>Bubo bubo</i>)**
Sandpipers (Scolopacidae)		Green sandpiper (<i>Tringa ochropus</i>)
Gulls, Terns and allies (Lardiae)		Great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)
		European herring gull (<i>Larus</i>)
		Mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)
		Black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)
Corvids (Corvidae)		Eurasian magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>)
Thrushes (Turdidae)		Fieldfare (<i>Turdus pilaris</i>)

* European Food Safety Association.

**Species that are rare but can be present in Ireland.