

## Update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Europe

18 January 2018

### United Kingdom

- HPAI H5N6 has now been confirmed in 25 wild birds found dead on wetlands on 9 January 2018 in Dorset County. The species affected include 23 Mute swans (*Cygnus olor*), one Canada goose (*Branta Canadensis*) and one Pochard (*Aythya farina*).
- On 16 January 2018, HPAI H5N6 was confirmed in a further 13 wild birds found in Warwickshire County, and part of a 68 bird die-off. Positive species include six Great Black-backed gulls (*Larus marinus*), one Herring gull (*Larus argentus*), one Great crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) and 5 Tufted ducks (*Aythya fuligula*).
- As of 18 January 2018 an **avian influenza prevention zone** has been put in place in England which means that anybody who keeps poultry or birds are required to follow proper biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of introducing disease to their birds.



**Figure 1.** The location of the most recent English HPAI H5N6 wild bird events in Dorset and Warwickshire Counties.

- More information on the current HPAI H5N6 events in England is available on the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Animal and Plant Health Agency website:  
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

## Situation Assessment

England has now reported two HPAI H5N6 bird die-offs in two locations affecting seven wild bird species since 9 January 2018. Although the English and European reports of HPAI H5N6 in wild birds are far fewer than HPAI H5N8 for the same period last year, the most recent events in England are of concern as they have involved large wild bird die-offs, with a wide selection of wild water birds in a short period of time. In addition the second event in Warwickshire occurred outside a previously designated high risk area, and highlights that all areas are at risk from spread of the virus by wild birds. .

To date no human infections with the European HPAI H5N6 have been reported.

The risk to Ireland is that H5N6 may also be introduced into Ireland by migratory wild birds.

## 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/](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](mailto:PoultryRegUpdate@agriculture.gov.ie). More information is also available on the Department website:

[https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian\\_influenza/poultryregistration/](https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/poultryregistration/)

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/](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/>

## NDCC and Border Inspection Posts Division