

## Bird flu – Latest situation: UK-wide housing measures introduced to protect poultry and captive birds against avian flu

- The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds. The new housing measures will come into force across the UK from **00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021** to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza following a number of confirmed cases across Great Britain in recent weeks.
  - The new housing measures, which will be in addition to the current AIPZ requirements, will come into force at 00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021, and will mean that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK to keep their birds indoors and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.
  - An AIPZ including housing measure has been in force in the districts of Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire in North Yorkshire, England since 20:30 on the 21 November 2021. From 00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021 equivalent measures will apply across the whole of the UK.
  - Separate AIPZ declarations are issued in each UK administration see the relevant administrations website below for further information and biosecurity advice on how to prepare for when these mandatory housing measures come into force across the UK on the 29 November 2021.
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- England: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
  - Scotland: [www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza](http://www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza)
  - Wales: <https://gov.wales/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
  - DAERA: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/avian-influenza-ai>

### Changes to Risk Levels

- The risk of incursion of highly pathogenic (HPAI) avian influenza H5 in wild birds has increased from high (event occurs often) to very high (with low uncertainty) for England and high (with high uncertainty) for Wales and Scotland for wild birds.
- The risk of poultry exposure to HPAI H5 across Great Britain has changed from medium (with medium uncertainty) to medium (with low uncertainty) where good biosecurity is applied, but has increased to high (with low uncertainty) where there are substantial biosecurity breaches and poor biosecurity. If, however, stringent biosecurity is in place the risk would be low for these premises.
- Further details on the evidence which supported these decisions can be found in Defra and the Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) [risk assessments](#) available on GOV.UK

Keepers can check where disease control zones are located and if they are in zone on the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) [interactive map](#).

For further information on these cases and details of the measures that apply in the disease control zones surrounding the premises see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england>. **This is particularly important given there are overlapping zones.**

To receive immediate notification of new cases and updated zones please sign up to the APHA's Animal Disease alert subscription service further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apha-alert-subscription-service>

**Bird keepers are reminded that an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been declared across Great Britain effective from 5pm on 3 November 2021 and in Northern Ireland effective from 17 November 2021. Additional Housing measures are currently in force in the Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire districts of North Yorkshire, and will be in force across the UK from 00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021. See [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) for further information.**

High standards of biosecurity must be maintained as good practice for the health of your birds, and that good biosecurity is an essential defence against diseases such as avian influenza and is key to limiting the spread of avian influenza in an outbreak.

Keepers must keep a close watch on their birds for any signs of disease, and seek prompt advice from a vet if they have any concerns. Clinical signs indicative of avian influenza must be reported in England to Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. In Wales, contact 0300 303 8268. In Scotland, contact to the local [Field Services Office](#). Failure to do so is an offence.

**The provision in the Housing Order(s) for the exemption for overwintered gamebird breeding stock has been maintained. This exemption was negotiated by the GFA some years ago and allows the continued use of open topped over-wintering pens for gamebirds. However, all members who overwinter their breeding stock are advised to consider what measures they can take to protect their birds from AI, and must follow all the other mandatory biosecurity requirements.**