



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon  
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Dear all,

I am writing to inform you about support we are putting in place to reduce the disruption of the restrictions to trade caused by avian influenza (AI) outbreaks in France on the shooting season in Great Britain (GB). I wrote to the sector last July and expressed my desire to avoid any future disruption as much as possible, and noted the need for the sector to diversify its supply chains.

My officials have been developing possible options to ease trade during future outbreaks. This has been a complex and lengthy process involving important legal, trade and biosecurity considerations – particularly given the unprecedented scale of AI cases in the UK and France since 2021. However, I now believe that we have devised a mechanism to ease trade for the next shooting season whilst managing biosecurity implications.

As you may be aware, we will implement an interim administrative measure to reduce the AI surveillance period from 90 to 30 days for all poultry and poultry products by revising the relevant health certificates for imports into GB. This risk-based trade facilitative measure will enable safe trade to resume from AI-affected areas more quickly whilst protecting GB biosecurity. This will be available to all of our trading partners if they can demonstrate that a stamping-out policy has been completed, and that surveillance has been carried out during that period and has demonstrated the absence of infection.

We have focussed on a general solution (rather than one bespoke to gamebirds), that will deliver similar benefits without any undue biosecurity risk. We are aiming to publish all of the revised certificates on GOV.UK in March 2023. With the next shooting season in mind we are prioritising the health certificate for hatching egg imports from the EU, and my officials will confirm to the sector once the certificates are available.

Once the revised certificates have been published, this administrative measure will remain in place until we have updated our legislation, which we will look to do as soon as possible. Given the ongoing risks of AI and the reliance on imports in the gamebird sector, I would also continue to urge the sector to look at where there are opportunities to diversify its supply chains.

Once more, I would like to acknowledge your sector's constructive engagement on this issue. My officials and I will continue to engage closely with the sector as this work progresses. I am copying this letter to representatives across the game sector.

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Benyon.*

**THE RT HON LORD BENYON**