

The Avian Influenza (Precautionary Measures) Order, 2022

Contents

Introduction	1
What is Avian Influenza?.....	2
What are the clinical signs of AI?	2
How is it spread?.....	2
Can AI infect humans?	2
How can I register my poultry?.....	2
What biosecurity measures should I put in place?.....	3
Poultry Imports	4
Events.....	5
Pigeons, birds of prey & game birds	5

Introduction

On 31st January 2022, the Committee *for the* Environment & Infrastructure made The Avian Influenza (Precautionary Measures) Order, 2022, hereon known as “the Order”. This means that there is now a legal requirement for all poultry keepers to register their poultry with the States Veterinary Officers (SVOs) and implement good biosecurity measures.

In addition to the above requirements, the Order requires the:

- isolation or export of birds imported into the Bailiwick from a country, territory or zone where avian influenza is suspected or confirmed,
- isolation and inspection/testing of suspect wild birds,
- prohibition of the holding of certain activities e.g., shows, displays, fairs, exhibitions, competitions.

The Order has been made due to the ongoing epidemic in the UK and Europe. This document aims to provide information about avian influenza and details on how to register your birds with the SVOs and implement good biosecurity measures.



What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza (AI), also known as bird flu, is a viral infection of domestic poultry and other wild birds, such as migrating waterfowl. Poultry includes chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigeon (bred for meat), partridge, quail, guinea fowl and pheasants.

What are the clinical signs of AI?

Increased mortality, unusual behavior, breathing difficulties, neurological signs such as shaking or incoordination, decreased eating/drinking, decreased egg production, thin or misshapen egg shells.

Avian Influenza is a notifiable animal disease, if you suspect any signs of AI in poultry or wild birds, you must contact the States Veterinary Officers (email: svo@gov.gg, tel: 01481 221161).

How is it spread?

The virus is transmitted between individual birds by eating or drinking feed/water contaminated by bird faeces or by inhalation of the virus. It can also be spread due to introduction of diseased birds to the flock or via poor biosecurity of poultry keepers, such as a lack of cleaning and disinfection and inappropriate pest control.

Can AI infect humans?

Avian influenza is primarily a disease of birds, but it can affect humans and other mammals. The risk to the general public's health is very low. It also poses a very low food safety risk for consumers - properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat.

How can I register my poultry?

Register with the States Veterinary Officers

1. Follow this [link](#) to complete our online form.
2. Email svo@gov.gg or call (01481) 221161 and provide the following information:
 - Name,
 - Address,
 - Contact details (phone number, email address),
 - Type of birds kept,
 - Number of birds kept,



- Address where poultry are located, if different to the home address.
- 3. Write a letter with the above information and post/deliver to:
States Veterinary Officers,
Burnt Lane House,
Longue Rue,
St Martins,
GY4 6LD.
- If you have already voluntarily registered your poultry, there is no need to re-register.
- Should any of the information change (e.g. number/type of birds kept), please inform the States Vets of these changes.
- The Office *for the* Environment and Infrastructure will use this information to contact you if there is a disease outbreak or if there are any other animal health/welfare concerns that you should be made aware of.
 - For details on how we will use your data please see our [Fair Processing Notice](#).

What biosecurity measures should I put in place?

Biosecurity measures are actions that are taken to prevent damage from biological threats, such as avian influenza virus.

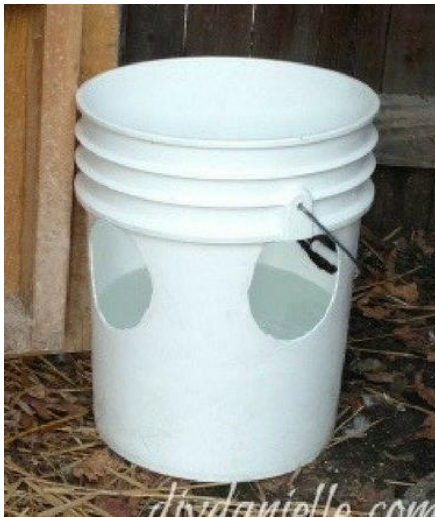
Good biosecurity and housing measures to keep your poultry safe:

- **Keep them housed** – if you do not have a purpose built building you could use a garden shed, garage or polytunnel (provided there is adequate light and ventilation).
 - Block up any gaps in poultry housing with boards or netting to avoid any wild birds getting in.
- If it is not possible to house birds, you should **separate them from wild birds** in a netted enclosure and ensure that feed and water is kept indoors/covered (see details below).
- Keep chickens and turkeys **housed separately** from ducks, geese and game birds.
- Make your premises **unattractive to wild birds**:
 - Use scarers, foils or streamers
 - Drain wet patches and areas of standing water to deter wild waterfowl
 - Net/cover ponds
 - Fence off ponds, streams, standing water or wet/boggy areas from your poultry
 - Remove any wild bird feed sources
- **Reduce movement** of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry are kept.
- **Store feed and bedding inside** to reduce the risk of contamination.



- **Clean and disinfect** – footwear, hard surfaces, equipment and vehicles.
 - Place foot dips and boot brushes containing Defra-approved disinfectant at the entrance and exit of all houses/outdoor areas where poultry are kept.
- Ensure **pest control** is effective.

Below are some great examples of ways in which you can keep feed/water covered to avoid contamination from wild bird faeces.



Ensure that the bucket has a lid on



Jerry-can with holes cut in the side



Duck waterer



Treadle feeders

Further biosecurity guidance from Defra can be found [here](#).

Poultry Imports

- Poultry import licence applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Imported poultry must never have resided within an avian influenza surveillance zone for any period of time.



- Imported poultry must never come into contact with wild or infected birds, directly or indirectly, during transport.
- Imported poultry must be kept in isolation from other poultry for 2 weeks and any deaths that are greater than anticipated during this period must be reported to the States Veterinary Officers.
- Follow this [link](#) for a map of avian influenza outbreaks.

Events

- The Order prohibits the holding or carrying out of any show, display, fair, exhibition, competition or other event involving any gathering of birds.

Pigeons, birds of prey & game birds

- Pigeons or birds of prey can be flown but keepers should try to prevent them from making direct contact with (or catching) wildfowl.
- Keepers of captive game birds must continue to implement minimum biosecurity requirements measures at all times.