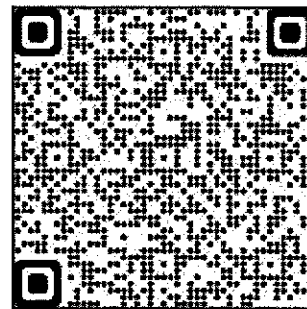




Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square London
SW1P 3JR

T: 03300 416589
surveillance@apha.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra



Council Hall
York Road
Torpoint
PL11 2LG



49603/56991/C1
393B/00272/0094586

October 2022

Dear Resident

I am contacting you as the UK Chief Vet because there has been an outbreak of Avian Influenza (also known as bird flu), in your area.

The avian strain influenza strain in this outbreak presents a **low risk to human health** but is highly pathogenic for birds, meaning they can catch and spread the disease easily. More information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#latest-situation>

You have received this letter because your property is in, or very close to a declared AI Protection or Surveillance zone. To assure the health status of birds within the area around confirmed infections, we need to complete a survey of susceptible birds. This letter has been sent to households within 10 km of an outbreak.

If you keep poultry such as chickens, ducks or geese, game birds, pigeons, or other birds even if you only keep them as pets, we need you to take action.

The second page of this letter explains what you need to do.

If you do not keep poultry or captive birds, you can still help us by reporting dead wild birds. If you find any dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese, or ducks) or other dead wild birds such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline on 03459 335577. More information is available on our website at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#wild-birds-in-england>

The Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA) which is the government agency responsible for animal health, is working tirelessly to tackle any confirmed case of bird flu. Whilst we are doing everything we can, animal disease control is everybody's responsibility, and we need your support. Most people are already helping by following the guidance above. I hope you will also play your part by following the steps outlined in this letter. Surveillance of poultry and captive birds in the area is still required for 3 months after the infected premises is cleansed and disinfected.

Yours faithfully



**CHRISTINE MIDDLEMISS
UK CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER**

What you need to do if you keep poultry or other captive birds?

1 Register your birds

It is quick, free and easy to register your birds. The quickest way to do so is using the enclosed form and sending it by email to surveillance@apha.gov.uk. However, you can also register over the phone by calling 03300 416589 (Lines open 08:30 – 17:00 Monday – Friday).

If you have more than 50 birds, you MUST register them by law. If you have fewer than 50, we strongly advise that you register them also. This will enable us to monitor avian influenza infection in the area – we may need to test a sample of birds in your area to show that the disease has not spread and is under control. It will also enable us to provide you with up-to-date information and advice on keeping your birds safe.

If you keep poultry, and are not yet registered, please do so by 16/10/2022

2 Report any illness or deaths in your birds

As always, please seek advice from your vet if your birds become ill for any reason. Avian influenza is a notifiable disease. If you or your vet suspect the disease, you are required by law to report it, so that the suspicion can be investigated. Reporting suspected disease is especially important now that your area has already experienced an avian influenza outbreak.

Contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) immediately on **03000 200 301** if you suspect avian influenza.

3 Make sure your birds are safe from infection.

A regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) for poultry and captive birds has been introduced on 31st August 2022 in Cornwall, Devon and part of Somerset to help stop the spread of avian influenza in the area. The measures are vital in protecting flocks from the virus which is circulating in wild birds.

This means while birds are allowed to range outside it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers in that area (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to follow strict biosecurity measures to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.

Housing measures are mandatory for premises in a Protection zone, where poultry and other captive birds must be housed until the zone is lifted.

More information on biosecurity for avian influenza and detailed measures in place are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#biosecurity-advice>

WHAT EXACTLY DO WE MEAN BY POULTRY?

Poultry means all birds that are reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game or for the purposes of any breeding programme for the production of these categories of birds. In this letter, poultry includes game birds. You're a poultry keeper if you're in charge of the day-to-day care of:

- chickens
- turkeys
- ducks
- geese
- guinea fowl
- quail
- partridges
- pheasants
- pigeons



Surveillance Zone – Registration of Susceptible Stock

Office use only
Received GB P/R Surveillance M/L VBRA

Details of premises where poultry are located (or have been present in the last 8 weeks)

Name	
Address (location of poultry)	Postcode
Correspondence Address (if different to location above)	
Email	
Telephone number(s)	
CPH *	if known

*CPH is the County- Parish-Holding number provided when a holding registers with APHA, Defra, RPA or RPW

Map Ref / What 3 Words location of poultry	
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Species/Type	Number	Housing/Husbandry

GB Poultry Register:

For keepers of under 50 birds – You can formally register on the GB poultry register. To do so, please complete IRA82 available from gov.uk

For keepers of 50 birds or over – you **must** formally register on the GB poultry register. To do so, please complete form IRA81 from gov.uk

[http://Poultry \(including game birds\): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://Poultry (including game birds): registration rules and forms - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

Signature

BLOCK LETTERS

Dated

Please send this to surveillance@apha.gov.uk or Isca Building Manley House, Kestral Way, Exeter, EX2 7LQ or you can register by telephone by calling : 03300 416 589



