

Date: 5 November 2025
Your Ref:
Our Ref: AIPZ Nov 25



Trading Standards

Ellesmere House

Mayor Street

Bolton BL3 5DT

NO PUBLIC ACCESS

Tel: 01204 336500

www.bolton.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE (AIPZ) –
Housing Order Extension**

Following the letter sent to you last week, this department is contacting you, as you may potentially keep poultry or captive birds that are not being kept in accordance with the above declaration. As such, the purpose of this letter is to ensure that you are fully aware of the current AIPZ requirements and how you can comply with them.

Defra has issued a new press release to confirm that a **nationwide housing order extension** will be in place from **6 November 2025**. The extended measures applies to bird keepers across the whole of England who must now **house all poultry and captive birds if they keep more than 50** (except in specific circumstances e.g. some zoo birds) **or if they sell or give eggs away**. This nationwide housing order extension follows last week's introduction of housing measures for north, central and parts of east of England to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease

The [UK Chief Veterinary](#) states:

“Given the continued increase in the number of avian influenza cases in kept birds and wild birds across England, we are now taking the difficult step to extend the housing measures to the whole of England.

I appreciate the impact these measures have on industry and am extremely grateful for the continued cooperation of the poultry sector. We know from previous years that housing birds will bring the rates of infection down from the high we are currently experiencing.

I urge bird keepers to comply with the new housing measures, continue to exercise robust biosecurity measures, remain alert for any signs of disease and report suspected disease immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency”

All bird keepers in England whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock must:

- **keep feed and bedding inside**
- **cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds– if practical, use disposable protective clothing**

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- **reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products**
- **carry out effective vermin control in any areas where poultry and captive birds are kept**
- **thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing and concrete walkways on a continuous basis**
- **keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points**
- **make your premises unattractive to wild birds (e.g. use bird scarers, foils or streamers)**

Further information on the latest situation and guidance to help bird keepers comply with the new rules is available via gov.uk/birdflu. You can check if you're in a [bird flu disease zone on the map](#) and check the [declarations](#) for details of the restrictions and gov.uk/birdflu for further advice and information.

The current risk to human health remains low and as standard, properly cooked poultry and poultry products, including eggs, are safe to eat. UKHSA remains vigilant for any evidence of changing levels of risk and are keeping this under constant review.

The housing order and AIPZ will be in place until further notice and will be kept under regular review as part of the government's work to monitor and manage the risks of avian influenza.

To assist bird keepers in complying with the latest rules DEFRA have published guidance on measures to take to help prevent avian influenza: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading>

The Prevention Zone rules are temporary measures to control potential disease and, as with any disease control measure, they will be reviewed based on the latest situation and up-to-date scientific advice.

If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or captive birds, you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.

If you do keep poultry, I must also advise you that since the 1st of October 2024 everyone in Great Britain that keeps any number of outdoor poultry or kept birds **must register their details within one month of any bird's arrival.**

I am sure you will understand the need to comply with these measures as those not adhering to them are not only putting their flocks at risk of catching this disease, but also undermining the efforts of others, including big commercial suppliers, to reduce the risk of further outbreaks. Local authorities are responsible for enforcement of these legal requirements and those that do not comply may be visited, and possible further action may be taken.

If you have no poultry or have and complied with the above rules, I thank you for helping us control this disease. However, I am sure you will understand the need for these controls and this letter of advice.

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If you have any queries relating to this letter, or would like to report any non-compliance with the biosecurity measures please contact Bolton Trading Standards via trading.standards@bolton.gov.uk or 01204 336500.

Yours faithfully

Bolton Trading Standards