Date: 29 October 2025

Your Ref:

Our Ref: AIPZ Oct 25



Trading Standards

Ellesmere House Mayor Street Bolton BL3 5DT

NO PUBLIC ACCESS

01204 336500

www.bolton.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE

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 Prevention Zone requirements and how you can comply with them.

Defra has issued a <u>press release to confirm that the UK Chief Veterinary Officer is putting in place mandatory housing for poultry in north, central and east of England</u>. Measures will take effect from **30th October 2025** and applies to keepers of more than 50 birds and any sellers of poultry products.

"In response to increased findings of highly pathogenic avian influenza (commonly known as bird flu) in wild birds and new cases in poultry and kept birds, coupled with heightened risk levels, an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone with housing measures is being introduced for north, central and parts of east of England to mitigate the risk of further outbreaks of the disease.

The affected counties and unitary authorities include Cheshire, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, East Riding of Yorkshire, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Rutland, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Tyne & Wear, West Yorkshire.

The measures do not apply to hobby keepers, only to keepers who have more than 50 birds, and those that sell or give away eggs or poultry products due to the increased biosecurity risk that comes with trading these products such as vehicle movements. These keepers must keep their birds housed to protect them from bird flu.

The declaration will take effect from 00:01 on 30 October 2025. Bird keepers are advised to check if they are in a <u>bird flu disease zone on this map</u> and <u>read further advice</u> on how to comply with the requirements. Keepers are encouraged to take action to <u>prevent bird flu and stop it spreading</u> and be vigilant for signs of disease and report it to keep birds safe.

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) also remains in force across the entirety of Great Britain to mitigate the risk of outbreaks of the disease. This requires taking enhanced biosecurity measures such as reporting of changes in egg production, mandatory record keeping, disinfecting footwear, and cleansing & disinfecting housing and concrete walkways on a continuous basis

The AIPZ measures apply to all bird keepers whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock and are essential to protecting flocks from avian influenza. Keepers in the areas with housing measures need to be additionally vigilant to the requirements of the AIPZ.

It is vital that anyone that keeps birds within the prevention zone, whether a few chickens in a back garden or thousands on a commercial unit stays vigilant and adheres to these rules. In summary all poultry keepers should:

- Where you keep more than 50 birds house all kept poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
- For all keepers of poultry / kept birds cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- 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, and use effective vermin control
- keep records of mortality, movement of poultry and poultry products and any changes in production
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- keep fresh DEFRA approved disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- prevent access by poultry to ponds and watercourses and ensure that birds are kept in fenced or enclosed areas

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.

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 sincerely,

Bolton Trading Standards