



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mhairi Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for
Rural Affairs and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

By email only

rural.committee@parliament.scot

17 June 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN SCOTLAND

I write with reference to your [letter](#) of 31 May 2022 on the ongoing HPAI H5N1 avian influenza cases in Scotland. The Committee is concerned about the danger this outbreak poses to poultry and other captive birds, as well as to populations of wild bird species, and has agreed to write to you on the following points.

The Committee notes the declaration of an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) across Great Britain on 3 November 2021 and seeks further information from the Scottish Government on the efficacy of the AIPZ in curtailing the outbreak within Scotland.

The Committee also asks what measures the Scottish Government has taken to address and mitigate the impact of the outbreak on the poultry industry and wider agriculture, particularly with regards to the poultry and egg supply chains.

Concerning the spread of the outbreak among wild birds, the Committee would welcome an update on the Scottish Government's assessment of the causes of the spread, the impact this is having on Scotland's wild bird populations, and the Government's response plan to monitor and contain the outbreak among wild bird populations.

I have copied in Dean Lockhart MSP, Convenor of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

I would be grateful to receive your response by 29 August 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee