3 May 2017

Dear Graeme,

I am writing to confirm that the Scotland-wide Avian Influenza (AI) Prevention Zone expired at 01:00 on Sunday 30 April 2017. The ban on gatherings of poultry, game birds and waterfowl remains in force until 15 May 2017 when a new general licence for gatherings will come into force.

The risk of incursion of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) into poultry or captive birds in Scotland, either from non-migratory wild birds or contaminated environment was assessed by EPIC on 18 April, as being “LOW” (reduced from “MEDIUM”). This risk level falls within the parameters of what we consider to be “typical” of the disease risk from AI in Scotland, year-round.

Wild bird surveillance in Scotland shows that since 1 December 2016, 51 birds were tested in Scotland and only one tested positive for HPAI H5N8. Furthermore, all 10 suspect notifiable disease investigations in domestic flocks, reported over the same time period, have been negated.

Scottish Government officials worked closely with colleagues in other administrations to ensure a considered approach to assessing the risks within each administration. In Wales the Prevention Zone also expired on 30 April, and in England, Defra’s Prevention Zone will remain in force until 15 May.


Further information is available on the Scottish Government’s Avian Influenza webpage: www.gov.scot/avianinfluenza

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1 EPIC is a Scottish Government funded consortium of 6 Scottish research institutions which provides advice to Scottish Government in response to animal disease outbreaks.
I trust that this information is helpful.

FERGUS EWING