6 December 2016

Dear Edward

I am writing to inform you that a Scotland-wide Avian Influenza Prevention Zone has been declared with immediate effect. Within the zone all poultry and captive birds are required to be kept indoors, or otherwise kept separate from wild birds. Heightened biosecurity measures also apply, including the requirement to make bird feed and water inaccessible to wild birds, implement vermin control, and provide disinfectant at entrances and exits. These steps have been taken as a precautionary measure in response to the spread of a virulent strain of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N8 in mainland Europe, and are in line with a similar zone declared in England.

I would stress that the risk level for an AI incursion into UK poultry remains at ‘low, but heightened’, although for wild birds the risk has been raised to ‘medium’. Wild bird surveillance measures have been increased across the UK and we are well prepared to respond to any suspicion of disease in Scotland.


I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

FERGUS EWING

Copied to Presiding Officer

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