



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Poultry Health and Welfare

Presented by: Nigel Gibbens, UK Chief Veterinary Officer

Date: Wednesday 22 February 2017



Forestry Commission
England



Environment
Agency

Structure of presentation

Avian Influenza

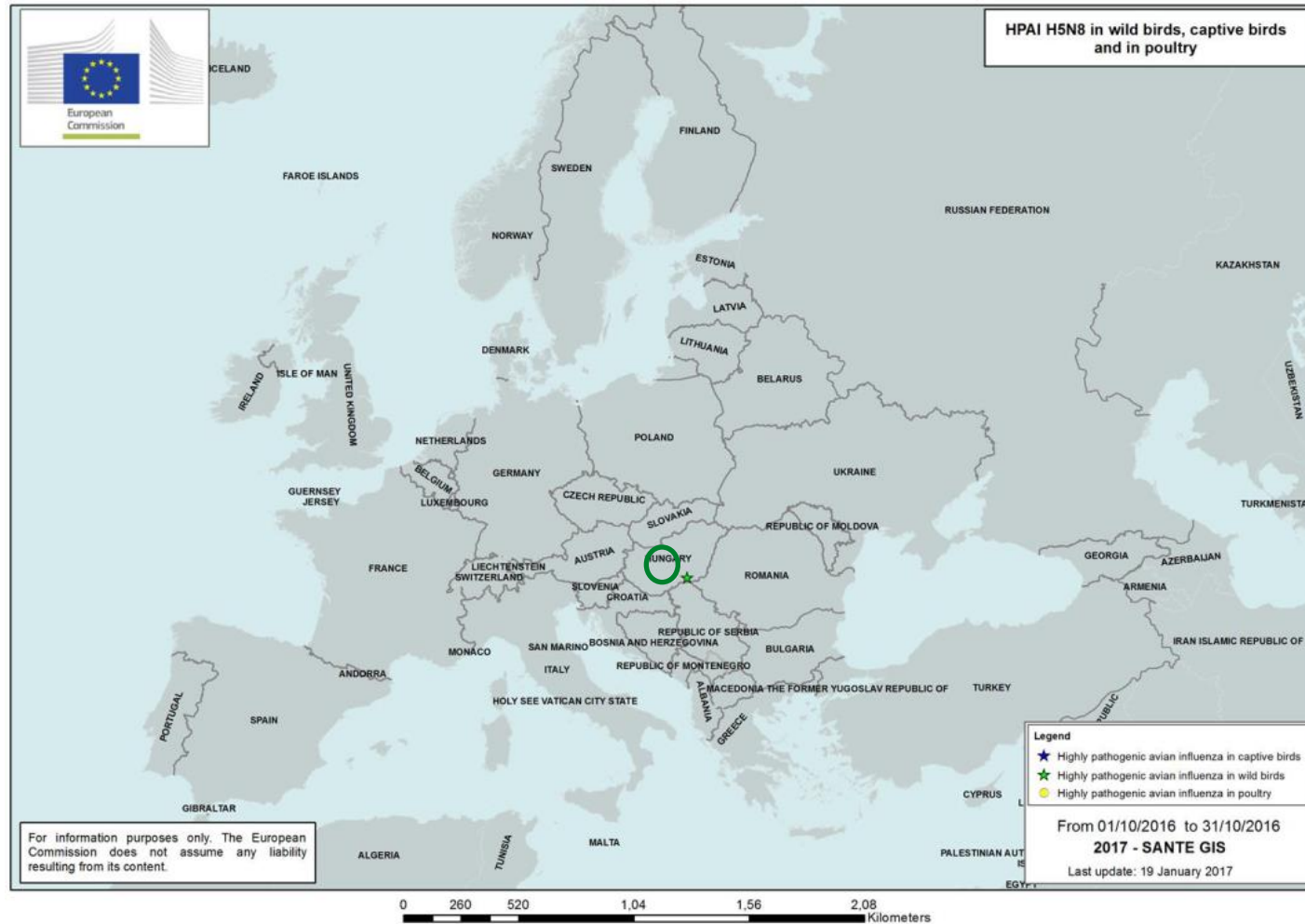
- Situation in the UK and EU
- Control strategy
- Exiting from controls
- Effects on trade

Situation in the UK and EU

- H5N8 HPAI circulating in the EU since October '16
- First outbreak in UK, in England in December; first wild bird tested positive in Wales in December.
- Current figures for EU: over 820 outbreaks (secondary spread in France, Hungary, Germany and Bulgaria).
- Multiple wild bird reports from 22 MSs.
- UK:
 - England 8 outbreaks, 17 wild bird reports;
 - Scotland 1 wild bird report;
 - Northern Ireland 1 wild bird report;
 - Wales 1 outbreak (backyard), 2 wild bird reports.

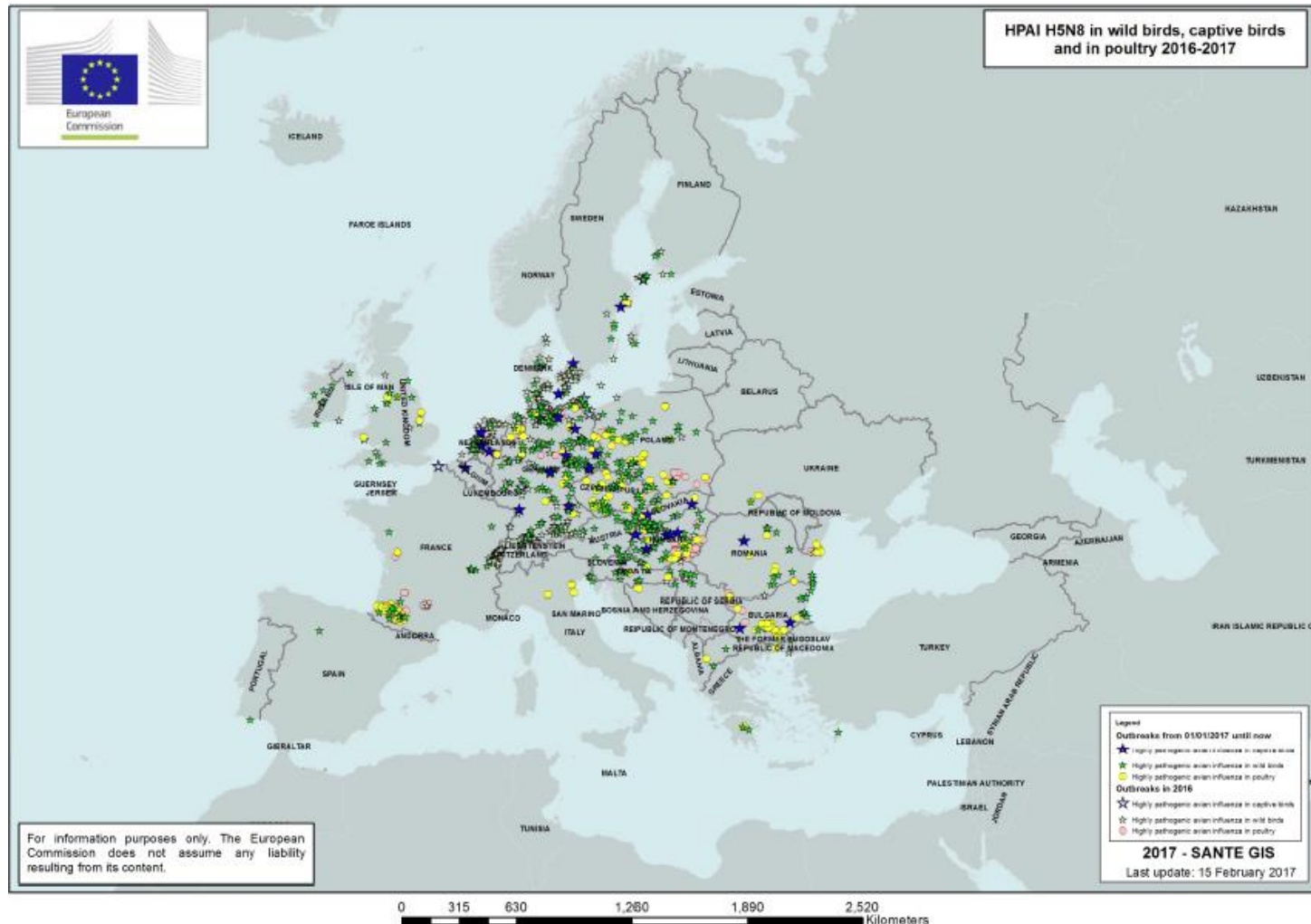
Avian Influenza: Progression across EU

October 2016



Current outbreaks and wild bird reports

1 Oct 2016 – 20 Feb 2017



Species infected across Europe

Wild birds - 47 different species (9% unspecified)

- **Ducks (26%):** Tufted (9% of all reports); widgeon; mallard; teal; pochard; goldeneye; eider; shelduck
- **Gulls (12%):** Black-headed; Herring; Great Black-backed; Common tern;
- **Other Waterfowl:** swans (21% - mute and whooper): geese (7% greylag, canada, brent), coot; moorhen; heron; cormorant;
- **Waders:** green sandpiper; grebe; curlew;
- **Birds of Prey:** White tailed eagle; common buzzard; peregrine falcon; eagle owl; northern hawk
- **Corvids:** Crows; magpie; hooded crow; raven;

Captive birds

- swans; goose; pelican; emu; white stork
- Harris hawk

Poultry cases in the UK

Case	Poultry type	Source	County	Active?
IP1	Fattening turkeys	Primary (wild bird)	Lincolnshire	No
IP2	Backyard mixed	Primary (wild bird)	Carmarthenshire	No
IP3	Backyard mixed	Primary (wild bird)	N Yorkshire	No
IP4	Fattening turkeys	Primary (wild bird)	Lincolnshire	No
IP5	Gamebirds	Primary (wild bird)	Lancashire	1/3/17
IP6	Fattening turkeys	Primary (wild bird)	Lincolnshire	3/3/17
IP7	Gamebirds	Secondary (IP5)	Lancashire	2/3/17
IP8	Gamebirds	Secondary (IP5)	Lancashire	16/3/17
IP9	Broiler Breeder	Primary (wild bird)	Suffolk	20/3/17

Very high mortality in some species

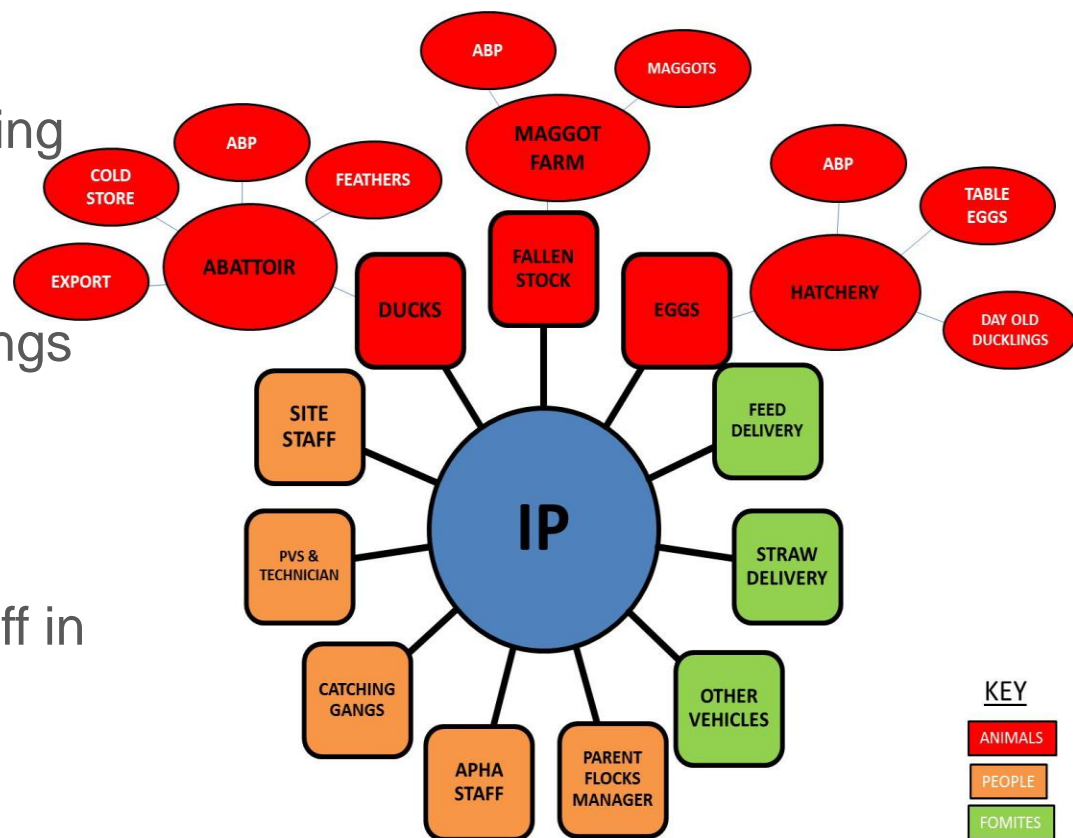


Gamebirds – variable clinical signs



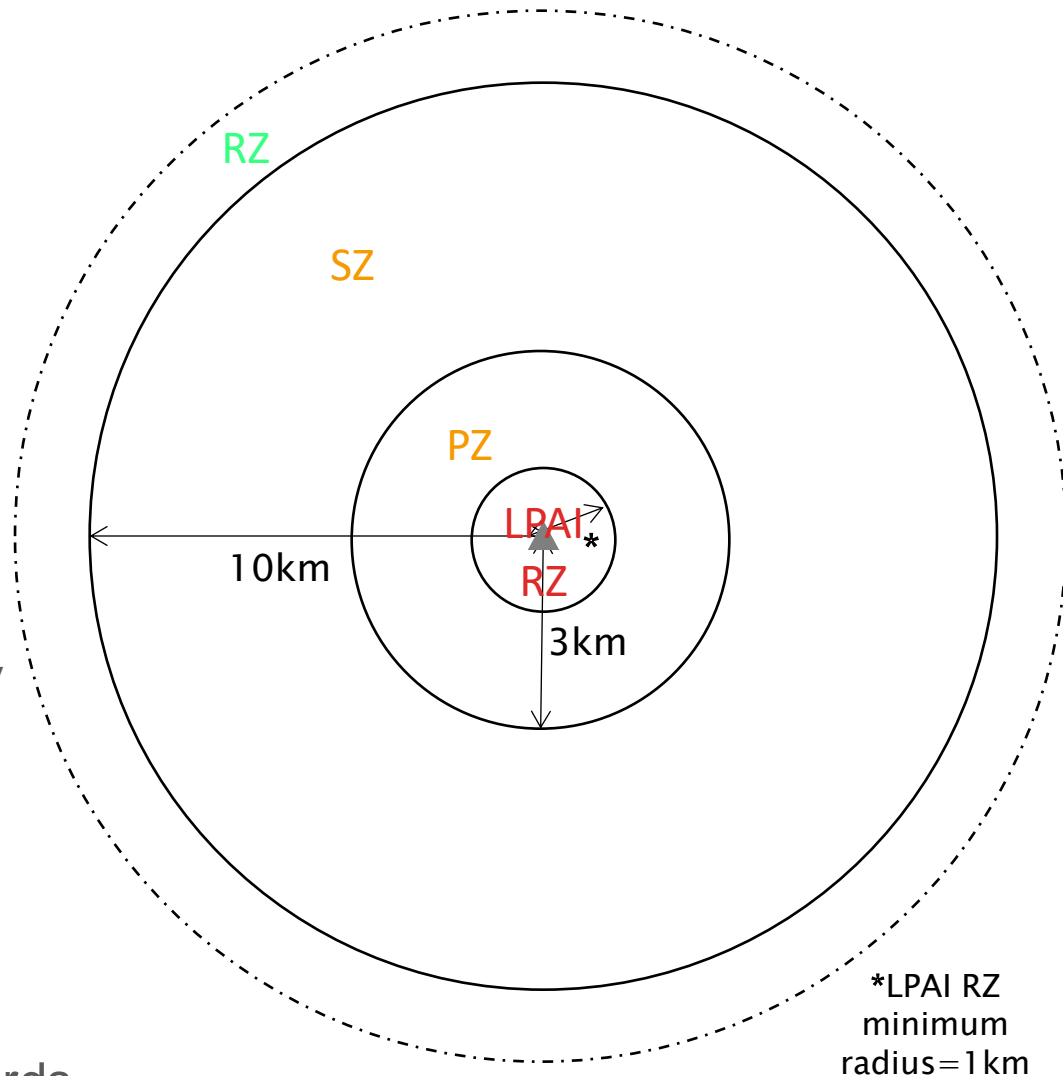
Control Strategy – infected premises

- Infected premises
 - Placed under restriction
 - Culling, disposal, cleansing and disinfection
- Contact premises
 - Spread and source tracings
 - PZ and SZ restrictions
- Tracing of live birds, poultry meat and eggs
 - Any live poultry moved off in high risk periods
 - Hatching eggs laid and any hatched poultry
 - HPAI - tracing of poultry meat and table eggs



Control Strategy – movement restrictions

- Record keeping
- Housing or isolation
- Movement restrictions
 - Poultry
 - Other captive birds
 - Mammals
 - Eggs
 - Meat
 - By products
 - Wild game products
 - Poultry litter, manure, slurry
- Fresh meat and meat product requirements
- Biosecurity
- Ban on bird gatherings
- Ban on the release of game birds



H5N8 Operations - Culling and Disposal

Premises	Species	Culled & / or Carcasses Disposed
IP1	Fattening Turkey	2428
IP2	Chicken, Duck	23
IP3	Chickens, Duck	10
IP4	Fattening Turkey	6644
IP5	Pheasant	12954
IP6	Fattening Turkey	15810
IP7	Chicken, Pheasant	1263
IP8	Duck, Goose, Pheasant, Partridges, Chicken, Guinea Fowl, Turkey	58285
IP9	Broiler Breeder Chickens	21855
DC	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea Fowl, Other Birds, Turkey	192
Overall Total:		119464

Source: Data is extracted from NDCC Outbreak Reporting

H5N8 Operations - Licensing

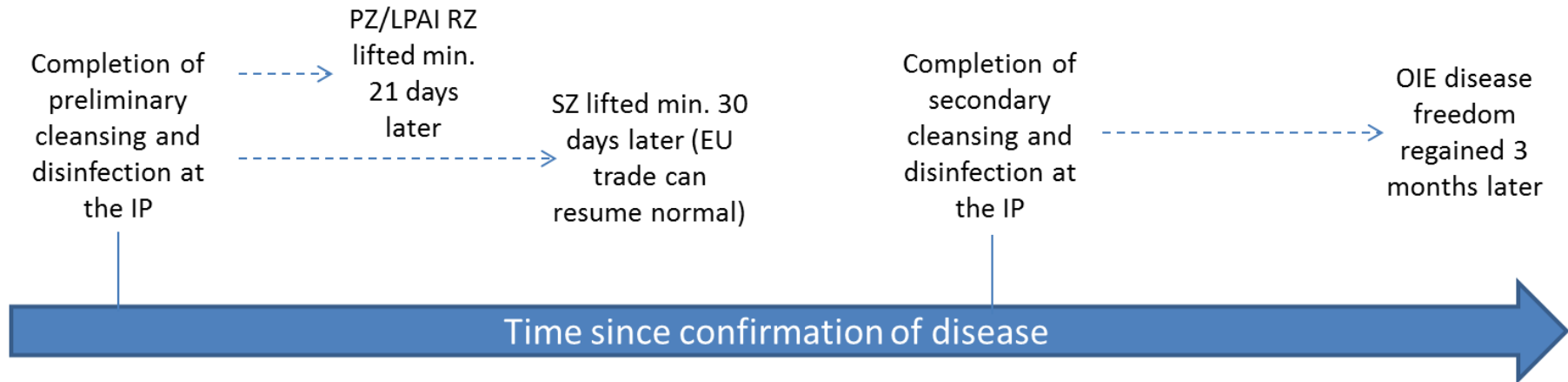
Cumulative Totals	Total
Applications Received	540
Licences Issued	164
Applications Rejected	58
Applications Pending (Awaiting VRAs and/or Policy Decisions)	169
Applications Withdrawn	149

Summary information on all aspects of licensing applications

Source : APHA Worcester CSC Licensing Team - Cumulative Totals

Recovering Trade

- OIE disease freedom cannot be regained until 3 months after the completion of secondary C&D



- Secondary C&D is the responsibility of the IP owner
 - Contingency planning
- Return to disease free status after 2^o C&D (to OIE standard) and three month wait or
- If the IP agrees to remain empty for 12 months.

Recovering Trade

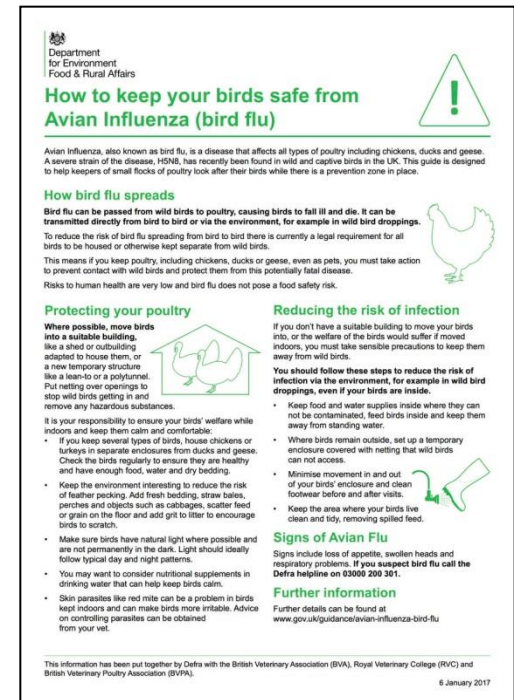
- Work in partnership with industry and UKTI global network to identify and mitigate trade impacts
- Key focus on getting regionalisation applied by main trading partners.
- Joint responsibility to be accurate and realistic about trading partners relaxing restrictions
- Make certificates available to new markets
- Long, hard, sustained effort to regain all markets

Egg Marketing in the EU

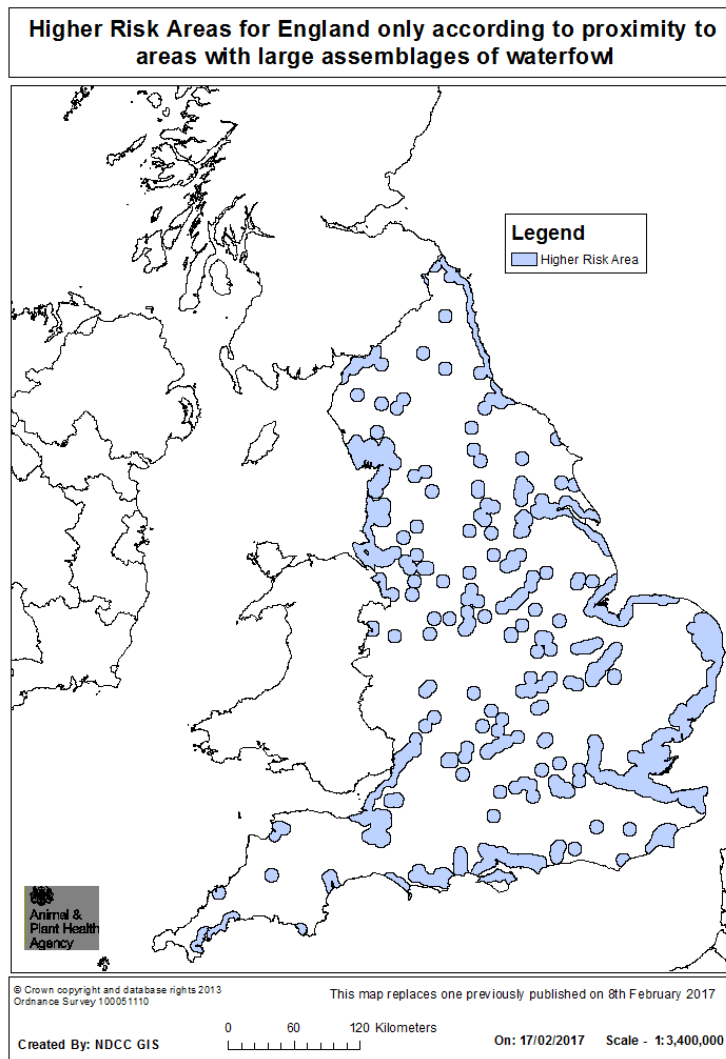
- Remove the housing requirement and regain FR status:
 - None so far
- Retain the housing requirement for certain poultry or in certain areas:
 - Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK
- Retain housing for all poultry and all country:
 - Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Romania
- No cases and no housing requirements
 - Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta
- FR vs Barn Eggs
 - already being labelled as such in France, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and Netherlands.
- Unknown position on housing
 - Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia

Policy response

- Avian Influenza Prevention Zone
 - from 6th December until 28th February
 - Housing or separation from wild birds, where practicable
- Separately Poultry Gathering ban from 20th December
 - Pigeons and other captive bird gatherings continue
- Increased wild bird surveillance
- No shooting ban, Falconry able to continue
- Guidance:
 - Biosecurity requirements
 - Backyard flocks biosecurity and welfare
 - Game birds
- Enforcement challenges
 - Local authorities and Egg Marketing Inspectors
 - Robust enforcement process
 - Industry help to drive up compliance
 - Clear messaging to backyard flock keepers
- Free range (eggs and meat)
 - 12 weeks grace period until 28th February
 - European Commission refused to grant a derogation to extend this grace period



Higher Risk Areas



Expected measures from 28th Feb, subject to review and based on current risk levels

- 1) Minimum Biosecurity Requirements (Mandatory for all keepers)
[separation of species, preventing contact with wild birds, ensuring feed / bedding is not contaminated]
- 2) Best Practice Biosecurity Requirements (Commercial keepers with more than 1000 birds only)
[use of zones, limit access to essential personnel, cleansing and disinfection between zones, record keeping]
- 3) Separation of poultry & other captive birds from wild waterfowl & gulls
(Mandatory for all keepers)

3a) Total Housing –
applicable in all
areas

3b) Total Netting /
Covered Runs / Aviaries
– applicable in all areas

3c) Supervised Access
to enclosed outdoor
areas not permissible in
'higher risk areas'

'Supervised' Access to outdoor areas

- Special Biosecurity Measures being introduced
- Outside areas must be fully fenced
- Birds must not be allowed to roam freely beyond the minimum range requirements.
- Ponds and areas of standing water must be covered / netted
- Streams and wet or boggy areas should be fenced off
- All practical steps must be taken to deter wild waterfowl and gulls from accessing these outdoor areas (ranges)
- Birds must not be fed or watered in these outdoor areas
- **Action needed now:**
 - to check and clean outdoor areas
 - keep wild birds away until flocks go out
 - Guidance available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

Key Points

- Our record of fast, effective disease control for avian influenza continues
- This year unprecedented and the risk level may not change for some weeks
- Housing will remain an option for all keepers, but will not be mandatory for most – c.75% of premises in England
- Higher Risk Areas proposed in England with mandatory housing or total range netting covering c.25% premises (17% of FR premises)
- Ministers decision in late February, based on veterinary risk assessment
- Disease control paramount, this is not a return to business as usual
- Free range status will be impacted for some keepers in the HRA
- Continued owners responsibility for on site biosecurity and welfare
- Take steps now – guidance is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)
- Talk to your veterinarian

Key Information

Rolling news article

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-in-winter-2016-to-2017>

Avian Influenza guidance

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

General licence for Gatherings

- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-gatherings-licences>