

Updated Outbreak Assessment number 5

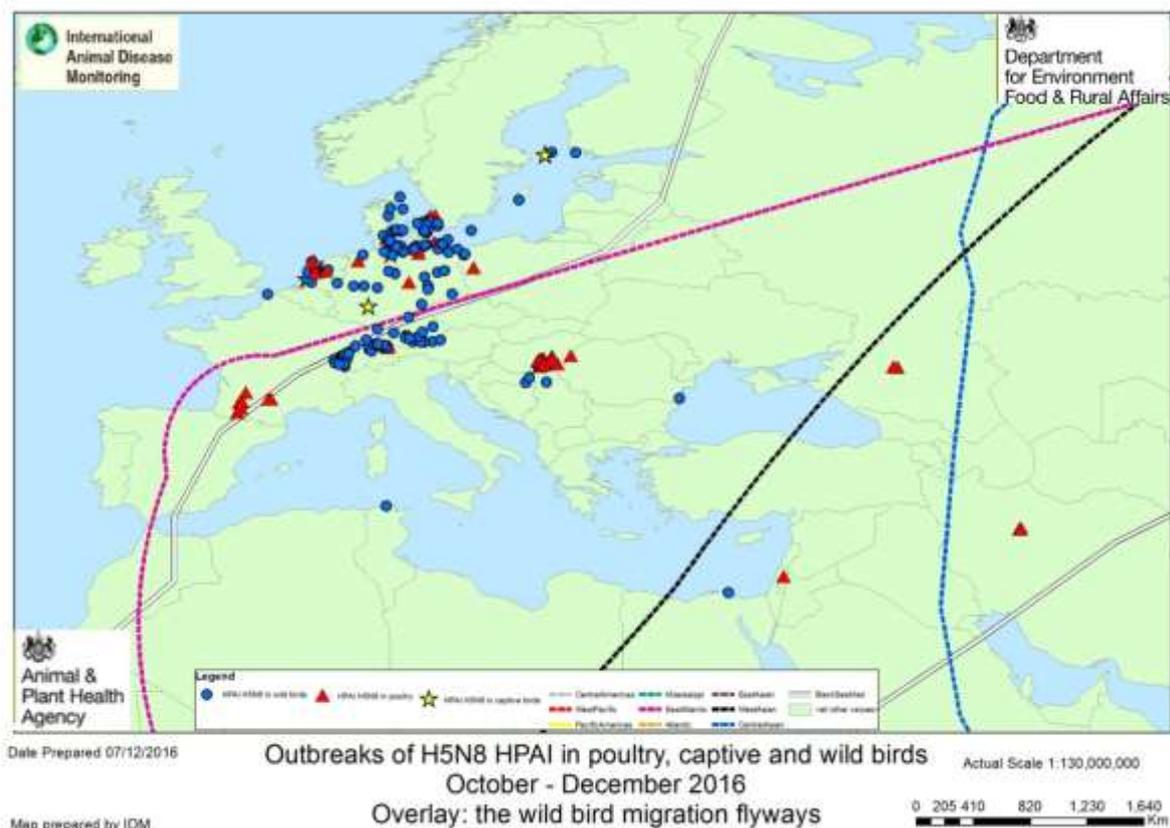
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 in Europe

7th December 2016

Ref: VITT/1200 Avian Influenza in Europe

Disease Report

Since our last update on the 1st December, reports of H5N8 HPAI in wild birds, poultry and captive birds are continuing and one new EU country has reported disease (Romania), while France is now reporting outbreaks in the SW region. In addition, new cases in Europe (Serbia), North Africa (Tunisia) and further spread in Israel and Iran suggests that this epizootic is continuing and spreading. There have now been 101 outbreaks in domestic poultry, an increase of 66 since our last update (in France, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands and Poland), seven in captive birds (Denmark, Germany and Netherlands), and multiple reports in wild birds. The actual number of wild bird cases is less important than seeing the distribution of the regions and species affected as the denominator data are not known (see map, disease outbreak information available on OIE WAHIS website and the European Commission website). **The UK has not reported any cases or outbreaks.**



For up-to-date information on the situation in the EU, also see the Commission website at https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-diseases/control-measures/avian-influenza_en

See also our interactive map at <https://iadm.carto.com/me>

Situation Assessment

In Hungary and France, in domestic poultry, there has been secondary spread between farms, not just new incursions. Hungary has reported 70 outbreaks to date, of which 17 of the last 19 were secondary outbreaks. France has reported spread in six farms which were all linked to a single premises of breeding ducks. These are all in the southwest region, where a large epizootic of several European strains of avian influenza was detected last year. As some of these new affected farms were outside the high risk areas where contact with migratory wild birds was more likely, the housing requirement has been expanded to cover all poultry in all mainland France.

The risk level remains as medium for an incursion of an infected wild bird, but the risk to poultry on individual premises will depend on the level of contact with wild birds, particularly wild waterfowl both native and migratory, or if the premises is on a gull flyway . This contact may be direct or indirect, through contaminated equipment, feed, water, clothing etc. As a consequence, the **Chief Veterinary Officer has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone** on behalf of the Secretary of State, across all England where increased biosecurity measures, including housing where practicable, are required for domestic poultry and other captive birds <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-protect-poultry-against-avian-flu> . Scotland <http://news.gov.scot/news/avian-influenza-protection-measures> and Wales <http://gov.wales/splash?orig=/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/disease/avianflu/> have similarly introduced the same type of order.

As a result of the increase in cases in wild birds in Europe, we ask that the public use the **Defra helpline (Tel: 03459 33 55 77)** to report any wild bird die-offs. In particular, where more than five birds of any species are found dead but also where a single wild duck, wild goose, swan or gull is found. Not all birds may be used for testing but we will monitor where the cases are found to triage the testing so it is important that we gather this information.

Further information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu> including updated biosecurity advice for poultry keepers which they should take note of: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu#prevention-zone>

Conclusion

The prevention zones will remain in place for 30 days at which point they will be reviewed, taking account of the risk level according to the disease situation in the UK and in Europe, the climate and the appropriateness of the biosecurity measures.

We would like to remind all poultry keepers that there are several pathways for the introduction of any notifiable avian disease into a poultry farm and housing alone will not be enough to reduce the risk of some of these pathways. Environmental contamination will remain as a significant hazard if wild waterfowl or gulls have regular access to the site, so preventing contamination from being brought into a poultry house will be paramount.

We will continue to report on the situation

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References

For all disease outbreaks, more information is available on the OIE website at http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/WI



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