



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Avian Influenza H5N8 in Ireland

National Disease Control Centre

# Content



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# Situation in Wild Birds up to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021



- 23 wild birds positive for HPAI H5N8 (21 separate disease events) found in 6 counties since early November.
- Cavan, Cork, Kildare, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Monaghan, Wexford and Wicklow.
- The species of birds include swans (mute & whooper), peregrine falcons, a curlew, a barnacle goose and a comorant.



# National Measures



- DAFM introduced the Avian Influenza (Precautionary confinement of birds) Regulations 2020 on 21st of December 2020 which requires poultry and other captive birds to be housed.
- These measures were in addition to Regulations introduced on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December requiring compulsory biosecurity measures and restriction on Assembly of Live Birds.

# First outbreak in poultry in Ireland



- Avian Influenza H5N8 confirmed in a small turkey flock (127 birds) 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020.
- Pathogenicity testing not available yet due to low levels of viral genetic material.
- Preliminary cleansing & disinfection completed 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Control measures implemented in accordance with Council Directive 2005/93/EC, including establishment of 3km Protection zone and 10km Surveillance zone.
- Measures provided for remained in place for 30 days post completion of preliminary C&D on the infected holding
  - Restrictions lifted 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

# Additional precautionary measures



- Depopulation of one commercial holding as high risk contact flock
  - 22,000 free-range broilers
  - Samples collected prior to depopulation negative
  - C&D carried out
- Depopulation of game restocking flock in the surveillance zone
  - 9555 game birds for restocking
  - 1725 mallards, 360 partridges and 7470 pheasants
  - Evidence of past exposure in mallards
    - ELISA positive & very weak PCR positive but unable to H/N type or get pathogenicity results
  - All other birds clinically healthy prior to depopulation



Thank you for your attention!