



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P-LG-8170-16

22 December 2016

Dear Assembly Members

## **AVIAN INFLUENZA CONFIRMED IN A WILD BIRD IN CARMARTHENSHIRE**

I have previously written to you informing you of my decision to declare the whole of Wales as an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone requiring the housing of poultry and captive wild birds and subsequently the introduction of a temporary suspension on gatherings of poultry.

I now wish to inform you that the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales has the finding of confirmed Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N8 in a wild duck in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.

This is the same strain of the disease that was confirmed at a turkey farm in Lincolnshire on Friday (16th December) and which has been reported in wild, captive and domestic birds many European countries, the Middle East and North Africa.

The duck, a wigeon, was found dead and submitted for testing. This morning it has been confirmed it tested positive for the Highly Pathogenic H5N8 strain of the avian influenza virus.

The confirmation of the disease in this wild bird follows the introduction of a Prevention Zone in Wales on the 6th December, which requires all keepers of poultry and other captive birds to keep their birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate, and protect them, from wild birds.

Earlier this week steps were taken to further protect poultry and captive birds by introducing a temporary suspension on gatherings of poultry.

Biosecurity should never be compromised. Even when birds are housed, there remains a risk of infection and keepers of poultry and other captive birds should ensure that every effort is made to prevent contact with wild birds. The movement of poultry should be minimized, and clothing and equipment should always be disinfected

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The H5N8 strain is highly pathogenic for birds but there have been no reports of human infection. The risk to human health is very low and the Food Standards Agency has confirmed it is safe to eat poultry meat such as turkey, goose and chicken.

I would encourage all poultry keepers, including those with fewer than 50 birds, to provide details of their flocks to the [Poultry Register](#). This will ensure they can be contacted immediately in the event of an avian disease outbreak so that they can take action to protect their flock at the earliest opportunity.

Further details, including the measures applying in the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone, can be found on the Welsh Government website [here](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish under the 'y'.

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs