

Update on Avian Influenza 06/2018 8 March 2018

H5N6 in a common buzzard in Co. Tipperary

- Avian influenza subtype H5N6 has been confirmed in a wild bird (common buzzard) in County Tipperary.
- This is the second positive wild bird finding in Ireland this year.
- The first positive finding was detected on the 5th of February in a white tailed sea eagle found also in County Tipperary.



Figure 1. The common buzzard was found dead outside Terryglass, Co. Tipperary, on land adjacent Lough Derg (blue marker).

HPAI in Europe

- There have been no further outbreaks of HPAI in Europe since 6 March 2018 (date of the last NDCC update).

Situational assessment

- The situation in Ireland and other EU countries is being kept under constant review.
- No additional control measures will be introduced at this point.
- The advice to flock owners is still to remain vigilant to the threat of avian influenza and take specific measures to protect their flocks including minimising access to wild birds by feeding poultry indoors for example.

Risk to Human Health

The HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSE-HPSC) and the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) advise that the risk to public health from H5N8 and H5N6 avian influenza is very low. FSAI (Food Safety Authority of Ireland) has also confirmed that poultry meat is safe to eat, provided that it is handled hygienically cooked thoroughly prior to consumption.

However, as a precaution the Department advises that only trained people wearing personal protective equipment collect dead or sick birds. Flock owners and members of the public are not advised to touch dead or sick birds and to report them immediately to the Avian Influenza Hotline at (076) 106 4403 during normal office hours or (1850) 200 456 outside of normal office hours.

Further information

- Specific biosecurity advice can be found here: https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/avian_influenza/biosecurityadvice/
- Flock owners are also reminded to update their registration details. On-line registration is now possible. Full details can be found [here](#).
- There is now a link to the avian influenza section of the website from the home page – see Current Topics on the top left of the screen: <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/>

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