

Alderney Official Gazette

NOTICE OF SERIOUS THREAT TO ANIMAL HEALTH ARISING FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA

Issued under section 6A of the Animal Health (Alderney) Ordinance, 2002

On 22nd August 2022, the States General Services Committee made a decision that it considers that there is a serious threat to animal health arising from Avian Influenza (bird flu), a notifiable animal disease and compulsory slaughter disease under the Animal Health (Alderney) Ordinance, 2002 ("**the Ordinance**"). This is for the following reasons:

- (a) Avian Influenza (bird flu) has recently been confirmed in a chicken in a 'back yard' flock in Alderney,
- (b) the risk of infection of kept poultry, commercial poultry, wild birds and birds of prey, resulting in death of these birds, is high, and
- (c) the risk to Alderney's local Gannet population, which makes up 2% of the world population, is high.

In these circumstances, the following special provisions apply under section 6A of the Ordinance:

"Special provisions in the event of a serious threat to public or animal health.

6A. Where the Committee reasonably considers that there is a serious threat to animal or public health arising from a compulsory slaughter disease then –

- (a) *it must as soon as reasonably possible after it has made that decision put a notice in the Alderney Official Gazette to that effect which must –*
 - (i) *specify the compulsory slaughter disease in question and the reasons why it considers there to be a serious threat, and*
 - (ii) *set out the special provisions applicable under this section,*
- (b) *notwithstanding sections 5(a) and (c) and 8, an animal may be slaughtered before it has been valued in accordance with section 8 and Schedule 2 but that valuation must be carried out, on the basis of all reasonably available information, as soon as reasonably possible after its slaughter,*
- (c) *the Committee may decide to treat an animal which is an inconclusive reactor in respect of a test conducted under section 3, for the compulsory slaughter disease in question, as though it had reacted positively to that test, and*
- (d) *where the Committee decides to treat an animal as set out in paragraph (c), then –*

- (i) *the Committee may decide to carry out one or more of the actions specified in section 5 as though the animal had reacted positively to the test,*
- (ii) *it may, for the avoidance of doubt –*
- (A) *declare any premises on which that animal is, or has in the last 60 days been present, to be infected premises in accordance with section 9, and*
- (B) *declare any area in which that animal is, or has in the last 60 days, been present to be an infected area in accordance with section 14, and*
- (iii) *the relevant provisions of sections 17 and 18 shall apply to that animal.”*

You can find the full Ordinance (consolidated text) on guernseylegalresources.gg .
This Notice has effect in the Island of Alderney.

Important Information

Please note that Avian Influenza is primarily a disease of birds and therefore the risk to the general public's health is very low.

If the public come across any sick birds, please contact the Alderney States Works Department (01481 820080). If the public come across any dead birds of prey, corvids, sea birds or poultry they must not touch them and should notify the States vets (01481 221161, svo@gov.gg). They will require the following information:

- Location of the bird(s), including what3words if possible.
- Type of bird(s) (if known).
- Contact details.

Poultry keepers should ensure that they implement good biosecurity measures and voluntarily register their poultry with the States Vets.

Under the Ordinance, a person who owns or has in his charge any animal which is, or which he suspects to be, infected with Avian Influenza (bird flu) must: immediately notify the States vets of the infection or suspected infection; isolate the animal and keep it in isolation; and detain all susceptible animals, their carcasses and hatching eggs on the premises. The States vets will give you further instructions and directions.

Note: For recording dead birds at sea or if you are unable to reach the States Works Department, you can enter a record online at [Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza \(Bird Flu, HPAI\) | Alderney Wildlife Trust'](#)

**The General Services Committee
States of Alderney**