

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 has been identified in a dead mute swan in Fife, Scotland, reported on 23 December. Since the start of the new season for recording cases of HPAI (since 1 October 2024) there had been only six cases detected with the virus in Scotland, and all had been of the H5N5 strain.

This new case is our first detection of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds since 26 November 2023.

Defra have put in place a regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) in parts of East of England in response to a number of cases of HPAI H5N1 detected in poultry and captive birds in that area. The zone introduced a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures to help safeguard animal and public health.

The registration requirement does not apply to birds on the premises that belong to the order *psittaciformes* (parrot family, including budgerigars) or *passeriformes* (perching birds, including jays and finches), which have no outdoor access and are housed within a fully enclosed structure.