

Coughlan announces arrangements for registration of flockowners and premises where captive birds are kept

The Minister for Agriculture and Food, Ms Mary Coughlan TD, said today that arrangements had now been finalised to register all flockowners and premises where captive birds are kept for sale or sporting purposes. This process is part of the ongoing focus on protecting Ireland against the threat to poultry posed by Avian Influenza. Application forms for registration have been sent to customers of the Department and advertisements are being placed in the national press to alert others of the need for registration. Blank application forms are available from local offices of the Department and on the Department's website (www.agriculture.gov/avian_influenza). Completed forms should be returned to the Department's local offices before 30 November and the information received will be entered on the Department's Animal Health Computer System.

The requirement to register applies to all individuals and companies who:

- Keep domestic poultry (even small numbers of chickens, hens, turkeys, ducks or geese for their own or local consumption) or
- Own, handle or trade in domestic poultry or other captive birds for sale or sporting purposes (including enterprises such as aviaries, pet farms, pet shops, game clubs, pigeon breeders, etc.).

The registration requirement has force of law on foot of the Minister having recently signed the relevant Statutory Instrument. It does not apply to pet birds in domestic households.

Minister Coughlan said: "Registration will provide the Department with critical additional information needed to identify and electronically map the precise locations where all such birds are kept. In the event of an outbreak of disease, we will use this information to determine quickly and accurately restriction and control zones. As part of our national effort to address the risk posed by Avian Influenza, I am now asking all poultry, captive bird and sporting bird owners/enterprises to respond promptly to the requirement for registration."

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