

23/08/23: Changes to Permitted Bird Gatherings in England

- Bird gatherings include events where live birds and/or hatching eggs from multiple premises are bought together and remaining at the gathering location for 14 days or less in England and 13 days or less in Wales and Scotland, following the arrival of the last bird.
- Bird gatherings include (but are not limited to) bird fairs, markets, shows, sales, exhibitions, and some premises used for dealing or internet sales. In addition, vehicles used to transport live birds where the birds are brought together from multiple premises (so called many-to-one or many-to-many activities) are also considered bird gatherings.
- The risk of introduction and spread of HPAI H5N1 into bird fairs, shows, markets, sales and other gatherings in Great Britain has recently been reviewed and has been reassessed as now **LOW** for Columbiformes (including racing and show pigeons).
- Further information on the evidence that supports these risk levels can be found in our [qualitative risk assessment on the likelihood of spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 associated with bird fairs, shows, markets, sales and other gatherings](#) in Great Britain available as part of the '[Animal diseases: international and UK monitoring](#)' collection on gov.uk.
- Bird gatherings are not permitted within a disease control zone, outside of these areas bird gatherings are only permitted if licensed. General licences permitting certain bird gatherings have been made available in [England](#), [Wales](#) and [Scotland](#).

In England, following a reduction in the risk levels associated with gatherings, from 23 August 2023:

- Gatherings of Columbiforme birds are permitted provided they follow and meet all the requirements of the [captive bird gathering general licence](#) and APHA is notified of the gathering at least 7 days before the event.
- Further [guidance for bird gatherings](#) and a full list of what is permitted in England has been published on GOV.UK.
- In Wales and Scotland, gatherings of Columbiforme birds are permitted, provided they follow and meet all the requirements of the relevant bird gatherings general license made available by Welsh Government [Bird gatherings: general licence for gatherings | GOV.WALES](#) or Scottish Government [Bird gatherings: guidance – gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and APHA is notified of the gathering at least 7 days before the event.