

Regional Planning Governance & Legislation



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

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www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

To Heads of Planning
(Councils)

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

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Dear Colleagues

AVIAN INFLUENZA PREVENTION ZONE

You may be aware that the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs has declared an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone for the whole of Northern Ireland as of 5 November 2025. A link to the relevant declaration is available at: [Housing Order declared to protect poultry from Avian Influenza | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

The purpose of this letter is to remind you that there are permitted development rights to permit the erection of buildings necessary for the housing of poultry and other captive birds to protect them from avian influenza.

Those rights require the developer to notify the relevant Council within 14 days of commencing development; and to remove the development once the need for it has ended, or the requirement to keep birds indoors has ended, whichever is sooner. A link to the relevant Order is available at [The Planning \(Avian Influenza\) \(Special Development\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#).

If you have any enquiries please contact David Doherty on 028 90540563 or david.doherty@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

SCOTT SYMINGTON
Deputy Director