

21 July 2023

Dear

## **ATISN 18702 Request for Information regarding Avian Influenza in Wild Birds**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which we received on 10 July 2023. You asked for: information regarding the cause(s) of wild bird deaths off the north coast of Ynys Mon (Anglesey) North Wales, including:

1. Was formal 'post mortem scientific analysis' done on cause of death of these dead birds?
2. Was Avian Flu absolutely proven?
3. If so, do you hold those test results and could I have a very brief summary of those "inquests"?
4. Was there any evidence of impact injuries causing death?
5. Had these birds been in the vicinity, via their patterns of flight range, of the very many offshore Wind Turbines off the north Wales coast?
6. Since these large numbers of Off Shore Wind Turbines have been installed do you monitor sea bird and migratory bird deaths on flight paths near the very high velocity massive Wind Turbine blades' tips?

A copy of the information we hold is enclosed.

Following a search of our records, we have established that the information you requested under parts 3, 4, 5, and 6 is not held by the Welsh Government.

### **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

**1. Was formal 'post mortem scientific analysis' done on cause of death of these dead birds?**

Routine surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds consists of patrols by wild bird reserve wardens and collections by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) of found-dead wild birds reported to the Defra Helpline or via the reporting tool on the Defra website.

After initial triage some dead carcasses are collected and transported to the APHA National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza, where they are sampled and tested for the presence of virus. The positive results are published regularly in an APHA report which can be found [here](https://gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds) (gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-in-wild-birds).

The report confirms a number of birds from the Isle of Anglesey tested positive for H5N1 HPAI Avian Influenza in May, June, and July 2023.

**2. Was Avian Flu absolutely proven?**

All samples collected by the routine surveillance for dead wild birds are tested in the National Reference Laboratory which adheres to strict rules regarding quality of testing. All results published in the [APHA report](#) come from birds with confirmed presence of the Avian Influenza virus.

**3. If so, do you hold those test results and could I have a very brief summary of those "inquests"?**

This information is not held by the Welsh Government.

**4. Was there any evidence of impact injuries causing death?**

This information is not held by the Welsh Government.

**5. Had these birds been in the vicinity, via their patterns of flight range, of the very many offshore Wind Turbines off the north Wales coast?**

This information is not held by the Welsh Government.

**6. Since these large numbers of Off Shore Wind Turbines have been installed do you monitor sea bird and migratory bird deaths on flight paths near the very high velocity massive Wind Turbine blades' tips?**

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