PLANNING TEMPLATE · UK

Avian Influenza Secondary Cleansing and Disinfection Plan

For poultry keepers preparing for secondary cleansing and disinfection after a confirmed outbreak of avian influenza. Core plan with annexes for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

THIS PLAN BELONGS TO

Producer name _____

Farm name _____

Address and postcode _____

Telephone _____

Plan completed _____

STATUS

Not official guidance. Not approved or endorsed by APHA, DAERA, Defra, the devolved governments or any environmental regulator. Instructions from APHA or DAERA during an outbreak take precedence.

VERSION

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1 About this template

This is a planning template for poultry keepers preparing for secondary cleansing and disinfection (C&D) after a confirmed outbreak of avian influenza. Completing it before an outbreak shortens the time it takes to agree a plan with the authorities and get back into production.

> **Not official guidance.** This template has not been approved or endorsed by APHA, DAERA, Defra, the devolved governments or any environmental regulator. During an outbreak, the written and verbal instructions given by APHA (in Great Britain) or DAERA (in Northern Ireland) take precedence over anything here. Requirements change, so check the sources before relying on any figure.

The core sections apply across the UK. The annexes cover the rules that differ in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland: the legislation, who serves notices, and the environmental regulator's requirements for washwater, litter and manure.

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2 Farm details

Complete this section in advance and keep a copy with your contingency plan.

Item	Details
Business name	
Premises address and postcode	
CPH number (GB) or herd/flock number (NI)	
Nation (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)	
Main contact and phone number	
Deputy contact and phone number	
Private vet	
Number of houses and system (free range, barn, multi-tier, organic)	
Total bird capacity	
Range area (hectares)	
Existing dirty water or effluent storage (m^3)	
Existing manure or litter store	
C&D contractor (if used)	
Water company (for sewer disposal approval)	
Environmental regulator local office	
Plan completed by	
Date completed	

> Add your farm map on the next page. Other sections ask you to mark locations "on the farm map", so one map with everything marked is enough.

Farm map

Mark these on the map:

- Poultry houses (numbered) and other buildings
- Ranges and paddocks
- Yard and house drains
- Watercourses, ditches and ponds
- Springs, wells and boreholes
- Entrances, exits and biosecurity points
- Proposed litter and manure heap
- Temporary washwater storage
- Route from the houses to the heap
- Land available for spreading

Draw your farm map here, or attach a printed map to this page

3 What happens after disease is confirmed

The government pays for and carries out preliminary C&D. The keeper pays for secondary C&D, which must be done to a standard the authorities sign off before poultry can return.

1. The authorities cull the birds and dispose of the carcases. Compensation is paid for birds that were healthy when killed, but not for diseased birds, eggs, meat or consequential losses.
2. The keeper disposes of eggs and other products from the infected premises in a biosecure way, at their own cost, as agreed with the official vet.
3. The authorities carry out preliminary (initial) C&D: disinfectant is sprayed on the houses, on equipment birds had access to, on litter and bedding, and on anything contaminated during culling. Its completion starts the clock on lifting disease control zones.
4. The authorities serve a notice setting out what secondary C&D must achieve, and the keeper chooses one of the three options in the next section.
5. The keeper submits a written plan covering litter and manure, cleaning each house and its equipment, other buildings and outdoor areas, the products to be used, washwater handling and a completion date.
6. The authorities agree the plan.
7. The keeper records each task as it is completed. The authorities may supervise any part of the work and inspect before signing off.

Under option 3 the keeper must keep the site biosecure, including vermin control and deterring wild birds. The form numbers and wording of notices change, so use whatever forms APHA or DAERA issue at the time.

4 Choosing a C&D option

Three options are offered once preliminary C&D is complete, and whichever you choose must be agreed with and signed off by APHA (or DAERA in Northern Ireland).

Option 1 · Full secondary C&D

Degrease, cleanse and disinfect every house and all equipment birds had contact with, then repeat the whole process one week later.

EARLIEST RESTOCKING

21 days after secondary C&D is completed to APHA's satisfaction, with sentinel birds

Option 2 · WOAH Terrestrial Code standard

C&D to the World Organisation for Animal Health disinfection standard.

EARLIEST RESTOCKING

The premises stays under restriction for 12 months after preliminary C&D (see section 12)

Option 3 · No secondary C&D

No poultry production, with the site kept biosecure, including vermin control and wild bird deterrence.

EARLIEST RESTOCKING

12 months after preliminary C&D, no sentinel birds needed

Under option 2, some other activities on the premises may be allowed case by case after a veterinary risk assessment.

Our decision	Details
Chosen option (1, 2 or 3)	
Reason	

5 Litter, manure, eggs and feed

All litter, manure and bedding from an infected premises must be treated before it is spread or disposed of. Under the Avian Influenza Orders it can be stacked to heat, sprayed with disinfectant and left for at least 42 days; APHA may direct a different method.

Until the authorities confirm the material is no longer infectious, it is treated as hazardous waste. The law allows four treatment methods for manure and used bedding, set out in section 12.

On-farm stacking followed by spreading on land is usually the preferred route. Off-site treatment at an authorised facility comes next, then authorised landfill. SEPA does not recommend on-farm burning.

Conditions the environmental regulators set for heaps

- Yard storage on an impermeable base, with run-off collected and contained
- Field heaps for litter and straw only (not slurry or washwater), packed tight with an A-shaped profile
- No heap within 10 m of a watercourse or ditch, or within 50 m of a spring, well or borehole
- No heap over field drains, in a flood-risk area, or where run-off could reach water
- Field heaps removed within 12 months
- The heap covered against birds and vermin, with vermin control recorded

Stacking inside the house keeps drainage sealed, but secondary C&D and restocking cannot start until 42 days after the treated material has been removed.

Material can leave the premises only under a licence from the official vet, in closed, leak-proof vehicles or containers. Eggs may go with the carcases or, under licence, for egg product manufacture or composting, as the official vet directs. Surplus feed can usually be treated with the litter.

Litter and manure planning

Item	Our figures
Maximum volume on site (m^3)	
Estimated weight (tonnes)	
Treatment method chosen	
Heap location (marked on farm map)	
Distance to nearest watercourse or ditch (m)	
Distance to nearest spring, well or borehole (m)	
Route from houses to heap, avoiding public roads if possible	
Vehicles and trailers available	
Cover, fencing and vermin control arrangements	
Final destination once treatment is signed off	

6 Cleaning the houses and equipment

Every surface birds could reach must be left free of visible faeces, feathers, dust and egg residue before disinfectant goes on, because organic matter shields the virus from disinfectant.

An APHA-led risk assessment (Horigan et al., 2019) found that careful secondary C&D leaves a negligible reinfection risk from equipment whether or not complex equipment is dismantled. Dismantling is therefore needed only where it is the only way to remove visible contamination.

The cleaning cycle for each house

1. Remove the remaining litter and dry-clean: scrape and sweep floors and all horizontal surfaces, including beams and ledges. Vacuuming spreads less dust than blowing down.
2. Apply a detergent or degreaser, usually foamed, at the manufacturer's rate and contact time.
3. Pressure-wash until no visible contamination remains.
4. Rinse, then let surfaces drain and dry.
5. Disinfect (see section 7).
6. Under option 1, repeat steps 2 to 5 one week later.

Give extra time to these areas

The places the risk assessment found most likely to hold live virus after preliminary C&D, and anywhere else dust and feathers collect, such as fans. Give each a line in the schedule of works.

- Drinker lines and nipples
- Floors and slatted areas
- Nest box liners, mats and autonests
- Perches and enrichments
- Manure belts, egg belts and other hard-to-reach equipment where feathers and faeces build up
- Fan housings, inlets and ventilation equipment

Small items that are hard to clean can be soaked in degreaser in tubs, or replaced if replacing them is cheaper than cleaning. Isolate electrics before washing fans and control equipment, and clean ante-rooms and control rooms by hand where pressure-washing could cause damage. Staff need extra PPE and must follow the site biosecurity procedure every time they leave, which slows the work, so allow for it in the timetable.

7 Disinfection

The law requires a Defra-approved disinfectant during a notifiable disease outbreak, used at the concentration approved for avian influenza.

Approved products and their dilutions are listed at disinfectants.defra.gov.uk (in Northern Ireland, use DAERA's list; see Annex D), and the rate for avian influenza can differ from the general orders rate, so check the product against the correct disease order.

Apply disinfectant only once a house is clean and has drained. Cover every surface and large component, and soak small parts in disinfectant solution at the same concentration. Follow the label for contact time. Under option 1, leave the house for one week before starting the second cleaning and disinfection cycle.

Disinfection record

Item	Details
Degreaser or detergent (product name)	
Disinfectant (product name, as listed by Defra)	
Approved dilution for avian influenza	
Application method and equipment	
Estimated quantity needed for two cycles	
Supplier and lead time	

8 Ranges and outdoor areas

The official vet decides the treatment for each range after a risk assessment. There is no fixed fallow period in law; birds cannot go back on until the authorities are satisfied (see section 12).

C&D cannot reach soil, so outdoor areas carry a residual risk that falls as the virus breaks down naturally. The virus can stay viable for several months in water and faecal material, so wet ground and standing water need the most attention. Where possible, move mobile houses to an area where washwater can be contained before cleaning them.

Range planning

Item	Our figures
Range area and paddocks (marked on farm map)	
Soil type and drainage	
Ponds, ditches or standing water on the range	
Poached or high-risk areas	
Equipment available for harrowing, rotavating or ploughing	
Whether litter will be heaped on any part of the range	

9 Washwater

All washwater from C&D must be contained and stored. None may reach ditches, watercourses or groundwater: in England and Wales the regulators warn this can bring enforcement action and an unlimited fine.

APHA may require washwater to be held for a set period, or treated, before it is disposed of. Check the current requirement at the time rather than relying on figures from older plans.

Containment and storage

- Use existing dirty water or effluent storage where you can, and make sure every yard and house drain runs to it.
- Where a house has no contained drainage, bund the doorways and fan outlets and pump washwater from a sump to storage.
- Keep washwater out of slurry stores. In England, adding it makes the whole store waste, which then needs a permit to spread.
- Size the storage from your pressure washer's flow rate, the hours of washing for two cycles, and the rainfall that drains into open stores and hard standing. Add washwater from biosecurity points, vehicle washing and preliminary C&D.
- Agree the site and construction of any temporary store with the environmental regulator before building it.

Temporary lagoon minimums (all three GB regulators)

Requirement	Minimum
Distance from watercourses and ditches	10 m
Distance from wells, springs and boreholes used for drinking water or food production	50 m
Base	Above the water table
Freeboard (contents to top of wall)	750 mm
Liner	Butyl rubber, PVC, HDPE or LDPE (England and Wales: not needed over at least 1 m of clay subsoil; no low-grade liner in high-risk groundwater areas)
Maximum use	12 months (England and Wales)

Disposal routes, in order of preference

1. Foul sewer, with prior approval from the water company.

2. A registered waste carrier taking it to a permitted facility, under your waste duty of care.
3. Spreading on land, only with agreement from APHA and the environmental regulator, who will decide whether a permit or registration is needed. The rules differ by nation (see the annexes).

Washwater planning

Item	Our figures
Existing effluent storage (m^3)	
Estimated washwater for two cycles (m^3)	
Temporary storage needed (m^3) and type (tank, bladder, lagoon)	
Location of temporary storage (marked on map)	
Water company contacted for sewer approval	
Registered waste carrier	
Land available for spreading, if permitted	

10 Restocking

After options 1 and 2, restocking starts with sentinel birds. Sentinels are normally placed at the house's usual stocking rate, and any variation must be agreed with APHA.

During the 21 days after restocking, an APHA vet examines the birds and samples may be taken for testing. The keeper must keep daily records for the 21 days (see section 12).

Under option 3, the premises can be repopulated 12 months after preliminary C&D without sentinels.

11 Schedule of works planner

Use this to draft the method for each area before an outbreak, then transfer it to the schedule of works form APHA or DAERA issue.

The completed record is what the official vet checks at the final inspection, so date every step as it is finished.

Area	Method (products, steps, equipment)	Washwater collection	Cycle 1 completed	Cycle 2 completed	Checked by
House 1 interior: walls, floor, roof space					
House 1 equipment: drinkers, feeders, nest boxes, slats, perches, belts					
House 1 ventilation: fans, inlets, outlets					
House 1 exterior, feed bins and silo surrounds					
Ante-rooms, control rooms, egg store					
Yards, paths and working areas					
Vehicles and machinery used on site					
Range and outdoor areas					
Litter and manure heap					

Add rows for each further house.

12 Further detail from the legislation

These points come from the Avian Influenza Orders and the GB disease control strategy. References are to the England Order (SI 2006/2702); the Scottish and Welsh Orders say the same, though some article numbers differ by one.

Restocking after option 2 (C&D to the WOAH standard)

Under option 2 the premises stays under restriction for 12 months after preliminary C&D. The keeper may be allowed other activities on the premises case by case, after a veterinary risk assessment (GB strategy, footnote 5). Commercial poultry may be restocked only 21 days after final C&D is completed to APHA's satisfaction, or 12 months after preliminary C&D (strategy, para 138; Order, art 67). Option 2 mainly helps the UK regain disease-free status sooner; it does not shorten restocking for the farm.

> Some older plans give "3 months and 21 days" for option 2. That figure is not in the GB strategy. The Welsh Order and EU Regulation 2020/687 (which applies in Northern Ireland) refer to 3-month periods in specific cases, so confirm the period with APHA or DAERA for your premises.

Litter, manure and slurry treatment

Manure and used bedding that may be contaminated must be (Order, Schedule 3, Part 3, para 7):

- steam treated at a temperature of at least 70°C; or
- destroyed by burning; or
- buried deep enough to prevent access by wild birds and animals; or
- stacked to heat, sprayed with disinfectant and left for at least 42 days.

Slurry must be stored for at least 60 days after the last addition of infectious material, unless a veterinary inspector authorises a shorter period. Material may leave the premises only under licence, to a treatment plant, to storage before destruction, or to another licensed place, in closed, leak-proof vehicles or containers.

Ranges and outdoor areas

The law sets no fixed fallow period. A veterinary inspector can serve a notice banning birds from any part of the premises where the virus may still exist. For fields and other outdoor areas, that notice can be lifted when the Chief Veterinary Officer confirms it may be; otherwise it stays for a year (Order, art 66(6) and (7)). The APHA-led risk assessment (Horigan et al., 2019) names scraping off heavy faecal build-up near pop-holes, cutting pasture short so it dries in the sun, and heavy lime application as ways to reduce the risk. The official vet sets what is needed for each range.

Restocking: inspection, sampling and records

Within 21 days of restocking, a veterinary inspector examines the poultry at least once, as close as possible to the end of the period; samples are taken and any birds that die are tested (Order, art 68). In recent outbreaks APHA swabbed up to ten dead birds per group each week and took 60 swabs per group at day 21 (UK self-declaration to WOAH, April 2024).

For at least 21 days from restocking the keeper must record (art 69):

- the number of poultry on the premises
- the number falling ill and the number dying
- feed and water use
- egg production

Records are kept for at least six weeks, and any abnormality must be reported to a veterinary inspector. Restrictions stay until the authorities are sure there is no recurrence (strategy, para 139).

Movements off the infected premises

Nothing may be moved on or off the premises without a licence from a veterinary inspector (Order, Schedule 1). That covers poultry and other birds; carcases, meat, eggs, feed, litter, manure and slurry; and people, mammals, vehicles and equipment. Eggs may go only under licence to an egg processing plant or for disposal, in sealed consignments. The keeper must provide cleansing and disinfection facilities at entrances and exits. During C&D, workers must wear protective clothing that is cleansed, disinfected or disposed of, and equipment must be cleansed and disinfected before it leaves (Schedule 3, Part 2, para 4).

How long each option takes

No official source gives a typical completion time. The fixed periods are:

Option	Fixed periods
1. Full secondary C&D	Two cleaning cycles at least seven days apart, then at least 21 days after sign-off before restocking, then 21 days of monitoring
2. WOAH standard	12 months of restriction from preliminary C&D
3. No secondary C&D	12 months from preliminary C&D

Still to confirm with APHA

- [ ] Who pays for sampling during restocking (no official source found)
- [ ] Whether a 3-month period applies to option 2 on your premises

13 Sources

- Notifiable avian disease control strategy for Great Britain, Defra/APHA, updated 26 September 2019 – https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d8cc8ceed915d556efe16cf/avian-disease-control-strategy1.pdf: preliminary and secondary C&D, the three options, restocking, sentinel birds and who pays
- Defra approved disinfectant: when and how to use it, GOV.UK, updated 4 March 2026 – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it: legal requirement and the approved list
- Animal disease outbreak: prevent pollution from cleaning and disinfection, Environment Agency/APHA/Defra, updated 13 April 2026 – https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-disease-outbreak-prevent-pollution-from-cleaning-and-disinfection: washwater storage, lagoons, disposal and spreading in England
- RPS 36: storing and treating litter, straw, slurry and washwater from an animal disease outbreak, Environment Agency, updated 6 October 2023 – https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/treating-and-storing-litter-straw-manure-and-slurry-from-an-animal-disease-outbreak-rps-36/treating-and-storing-litter-straw-manure-and-slurry-from-an-animal-disease-outbreak-rps-36: heap and yard storage conditions in England
- NRW: how to safely dispose of water and disinfectant after an animal disease outbreak – https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/farming/how-to-safely-dispose-of-water-and-disinfectant-after-an-animal-disease-outbreak?lang=en: washwater rules in Wales
- NRW regulatory statement RS 020.1 – https://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/permits-and-permissions/waste-permitting/the-storage-and-treatment-of-litter-straw-slurry-and-washwater-from-a-notifiable-animal-disease-outbreak?lang=en: storage and treatment of outbreak waste in Wales
- SEPA WST-G-62, November 2021 – https://sepa.gov.uk/media/594002/211026-waste_from_disease_outbreak_-sepa_guidance_nov-21.pdf: waste, washwater and the 42-day stacking period in Scotland
- SEPA WST-PS-042, April 2018 – https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/369294/stacking-and-storing-rps.pdf: stacking and storage conditions and in-house stacking in Scotland
- DAERA strategy publication page, updated 7 November 2025 – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/notifiable-epizootic-avian-disease-control-strategy: where the current version is published
- Notifiable Epizootic Avian Disease Control Strategy for Northern Ireland, DAERA, November 2025 – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-11/Notifiable%20Avian%20Disease%20Control%20Strategy%20for%20NI.pdf: C&D, restrictions and restocking in Northern Ireland, sections 7.8 to 7.10
- DAERA approved disinfectants, updated 1 June 2026 – https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/approved-disinfectants: disinfectants for use in Northern Ireland
- Horigan et al., qualitative risk assessment of C&D requirements after an avian influenza outbreak, British Poultry Science, 2019 – https://strathprints.strath.ac.uk/69875/1/Horigan_etal_BPS_2019_risk_assessment_of_cleansing_and_disinfection_requirements_after_an_avian_influenza_outbreak.pdf: APHA study on equipment dismantling and high-risk surfaces
- Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006, Schedule 1 – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2702/schedule/1: movement licences on infected

premises

- The same Order, Schedule 3, Part 2 – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2702/schedule/3/part/2: preliminary and final C&D, worker and equipment biosecurity
- The same Order, Schedule 3, Part 3 – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2702/schedule/3/part/3: treatment of manure, bedding and slurry
- The same Order, article 68 – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2702/article/68: inspection and sampling after restocking
- Avian Influenza (Scotland) Order 2006, articles 65, 66 and 68 – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2006/336/article/66: restocking licence, 21 days, keeper's records
- UK self-declaration of HPAI freedom to WOAH, April 2024 – https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2024/05/2024-05uk-hpai-selfd-eng.pdf: repopulation conditions and sampling
- EU Delegated Regulation 2020/687, articles 57 to 59 and Annex IV – https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2020/687/article/57/2020-12-31?view=plain: repopulation and C&D rules applying in Northern Ireland

ANNEX A

England

Item	England
Legislation	Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (England) (No. 2) Order 2006, SI 2006/2702
Disease control	APHA
Environmental regulator	Environment Agency: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk, 03708 506 506 (Mon to Fri, 8am to 6pm)
Litter, manure and washwater storage	Regulatory position statement RPS 36
Washwater disposal	Animal disease outbreak: prevent pollution from cleaning and disinfection
Slurry and temporary stores	Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (England) Regulations 2010

RPS 36 applies only once APHA has confirmed an outbreak. You must follow APHA's requirements, notify your local Environment Agency office before treating the waste, and keep records for two years (three for hazardous waste).

> RPS 36 remains in force (checked 20 October 2026). Its review date of 1 October 2026 has passed without an update, so check GOV.UK before relying on it.

Spreading disinfectant washwater on land needs an environmental permit unless the Environment Agency says otherwise. Tell the Environment Agency what you propose using its online landspreading form, and do not spread until it confirms no permit is needed or grants one. A permit application can take up to 20 working days and carries a fee.

Minimum spreading distances

Feature	Minimum distance
Rivers, streams and field ditches	10 m
Streams with nature conservation status	30 m
Boreholes, wells and springs used for drinking water or food production	50 m
Sinkholes, swallow holes and swallets	250 m

ANNEX B

Wales

Item	Wales
Legislation	Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2006, WSI 2006/2927
Disease control	APHA, on behalf of the Welsh Government
Environmental regulator	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Litter, manure and washwater storage	NRW regulatory statement RS 020.1
Washwater disposal	NRW: how to safely dispose of water and disinfectant after an animal disease outbreak
Slurry and temporary stores	Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

RS 020.1 applies only once APHA has confirmed an outbreak. Notify NRW before treating the waste and keep records for two years (three for hazardous waste). It does not allow the waste to be disposed of on or off the outbreak site.

> RS 020.1 expires at the end of June 2027 and will be reviewed by then. NRW gives the date as "31 June 2027", which does not exist, and can withdraw or amend the statement sooner, so check NRW for a replacement before relying on it.

To spread washwater on land, complete NRW's washwater disposal method form. NRW decides whether a permit is needed, and an application takes up to 20 working days and carries a fee. The spreading distances match England's, and in addition spreading and temporary lagoons are not allowed in groundwater source protection zone 1.

ANNEX C Scotland

Item	Scotland
Legislation	Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals (Scotland) Order 2006, SSI 2006/336
Disease control	APHA, on behalf of the Scottish Government
Environmental regulator	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), through the local SEPA Unit Manager
Litter, manure and washwater storage	SEPA position statement WST-PS-042 (April 2018); later version WAS-PS-042
Washwater, slurry and manure	SEPA guidance WST-G-62 (November 2021); later version WAS-G-62
Slurry, temporary stores and spreading	SSAFO (Scotland) Regulations 2003; CAR general binding rule 18; PEPFAA code; Nitrate Vulnerable Zone rules

SEPA will not normally require an authorisation for storing, stacking or treating infected litter, straw, manure or slurry on the premises where it arose, provided APHA supervises the treatment and records are kept. The records cover the disinfectant and rate, transport, damping down, storage location and distances to water, sheeting, and drainage.

Any off-site storage or treatment must be agreed in advance with the local SEPA Unit Manager, and off-site movements of hazardous waste are pre-notified 72 hours ahead under the Special Waste Regulations 1996.

SEPA must inspect any temporary washwater store before use; in an emergency this can be done by video call. Washwater goes preferably to a sewage treatment works with Scottish Water's prior permission. It can go to land only if APHA is content there is no disease risk: up to 10 m^3 is discussed with SEPA under general binding rule 18, and more than 10 m^3 needs a CAR registration, which can be fast-tracked in an emergency.

> This annex is based on SEPA's 2018 and 2021 documents. SEPA has since published WAS-series versions, which still need to be checked against this annex.

ANNEX D Northern Ireland

Item	Northern Ireland
Legislation	Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007, SR 2007/68
Disease control	DAERA Veterinary Service, through the Divisional Veterinary Office. DAERA Helpline 0300 200 7840
Outbreak policy	Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy for Northern Ireland, updated November 2025 to reflect EU Animal Health Law (Regulation 2016/429)
Environmental regulator	Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), part of DAERA
Disease control guidance	DAERA: introduction to disease control and prevention

In Northern Ireland DAERA, not APHA, serves the notices, agrees the C&D plan and signs off restocking, so the GB options in the core sections do not apply as written.

The NI Regulations mirror GB: final C&D in two cycles seven days apart, restocking only under a DAERA licence and not until 21 days after final C&D (regs 66 and 67), and the same four treatment methods for manure and bedding. EU Regulation 2020/687 also applies in Northern Ireland. It allows repopulation once final C&D is documented and a 21-day period has passed, permits repopulation after at least 3 months from preliminary C&D where the risk is negligible, and provides for sentinel birds on open-air farms (articles 57 to 59).

How DAERA handles C&D and restocking

DAERA's strategy does not set out the three GB options. DAERA carries out preliminary C&D, after which restrictions stay on the infected premises; for buildings this is likely to be no less than 12 months. A producer who wants to restock sooner must carry out final C&D under DAERA's instruction, at their own cost: cleansing, degreasing and disinfecting, then repeating the process. DAERA inspects the work and, if satisfied, issues a certificate of completion.

Repopulation is not permitted until at least 21 days after final C&D. Sentinel birds then go in, for most systems at full stocking rate. A vet examines them during the 21 days after repopulation and samples may be taken. Restrictions stay until clinical surveillance shows no infection and any samples test negative. Poultry litter, manure and slurry cannot be removed from the premises or spread except under licence.

Disinfectants

In Northern Ireland use a product on DAERA's approved disinfectants list at the dilution DAERA approves. A product must be approved by Defra before DAERA can approve it.

> This annex is based on the November 2025 version of DAERA's strategy, sections 7.8 to 7.10. It does not cover washwater, and no published NIEA guidance on washwater storage and spreading after an outbreak was found, so ask NIEA or DAERA what applies.