



# OFFICE OF THE N.A.R.G.C. COMPENSATION FUND ADMINISTRATOR

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Date: January 16th 2017 Our Ref: Gen Your Ref:

**TO/ EVERY GUN CLUB CONTACT**

**RE/ Outbreaks of Avian Flu in Ireland**

Dear Colleague,

The outbreaks of Avian Flu in Ireland, which thus far are limited to just two infected avian species found in Co. Wexford and latterly in Co. Galway, are something of a setback and potentially pose great difficulty for all of us, not only those of us who shoot but domestic bird producers as well. Mindful of the seriousness of matters, the Dept. of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, in conjunction with the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) have drawn up a "Guidance on Avian Influenza for Hunters". The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) is Ireland's specialist agency for the surveillance of communicable diseases and is part of the Health Service Executive. The HPSC works in partnership with health service providers and sister organisations in Ireland and around the world and collates, interprets and disseminates data and information on communicable diseases. The HPSC is part of the HSE itself.

We now enclose a copy of this document and would ask you, in the strongest terms possible, to ensure that every member of your Club is provided with a copy of this document at the very earliest opportunity. The advice set out in this document is informative, not just in the context of the issue now at hand but in addition, it provides us with 'best practice information' which we would do well to execute at all times, especially but not limited to those who are deer hunters.

Finally, while I recognise that the end of this year's game shooting is shortly coming to an end, if further outbreaks of avian flu are to be discovered nationwide, we could see a swift end to shooting for the remainder of this season either voluntarily or by Ministerial Order so we must be proactive throughout. After all, it is only logical that we should be.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Fenlon**  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.**





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Date: January 26th 2017 Our Ref: Gen Your Ref:

**TO/ ALL GUN CLUBS**

**RE/ Avian Flu - latest.....**

Dear Colleague,

No sooner had we the separate letter in this envelope printed off (970 copies), when we were made aware of yet a further outbreak of Avian Flu in a Swan in North Tipperary and more recently still, a fourth outbreak in yet another Swan in Co. Leitrim. It's a quickly changing cycle of events.

And as if all the above is not bad enough, now we have been told of an Avian Flu outbreak in a flock of 10,000 pheasants at a premises in Preston, Lancashire. The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed the presence of the H5N8 strain of the avian influenza in the flock and the entire flock is being humanely culled.

This latter event focuses our attention to the fact that some Gun Clubs in Ireland import pheasants, of varying ages, into Ireland from the UK. In light of all that is presently going on in both Ireland and England involving avian influenza, it would seem entirely inappropriate that any Club would engage in such importations in 2017. Indeed, it is our view, that importations may be banned by Government anyway but even if not, it would not be a good idea to potentially endanger our own wildlife resources. We ask you therefore to not so engage in 2017.

In addition, translocating pheasants even within Ireland, for the time, being should only be undertaken with the prior approval of The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

**Michael Fenlon**  
**NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.**

