



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon  
Cabinet Secretary for  
Rural Affairs and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[rural.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:rural.committee@parliament.scot)

***By email only***

17 November 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

### **Avian flu**

We have exchanged correspondence in relation to avian flu in Scotland since the outbreak was first detected last year.

The Committee notes the increase in the number of cases of avian flu in domestic flocks in recent months and the decision by the UK Government, on 7 November 2022, to impose mandatory housing for all poultry and domesticated birds in England.

The Committee also notes the strong concerns expressed by the Scottish poultry sector over the Scottish Government's decision that similar restrictions are not required in Scotland.

The Committee asks for—

- an update on the number of cases detected in Scotland since the end of August 2022;
- the reasons for the Scottish Government's decision not to impose mandatory housing;
- further information about the number of cases or point at which the Scottish Government would consider similar restrictions necessary; and
- what support measures the Scottish Government currently has in place to support farmers/keepers of affected flocks.

Given the media reports this week of a number of outbreaks, I would appreciate a response by Tuesday 22 November in order for us to consider it at our next meeting.  
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Finlay Carson MSP**

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee