



FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

22 February 2024

Update on confirmed case of avian influenza (bird flu) – New Island

On Monday 29 January 2024 swabs taken from a dead Skua on New Island were tested and returned positive for HPAI. Given that this was an isolated case of one single bird, the area in which the bird(s) was found was declared as an infected place and a level 1 response was followed with enhanced biosecurity requirements.

The restrictions on New Island have now been lifted. However, the public are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any sick or dead birds in the area.

Since Monday 30 October 2023, 95 suspect birds/animals have been reported, 55 sets of swabs have been taken within the Falkland Islands. Eleven have returned positive results (some are repeat sets from known outbreaks) and 44 negative results. There are no sets of swab results pending.

FIG have prepared information and guidance about bird flu and preventative measures to try and reduce the spread of the virus. This guidance can be found here:

<https://falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/avian-influenza>

The public are reminded to **NOT TOUCH** dead or sick birds but report them to the Veterinary Services on **27366** or **55366** out of hours.