



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

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**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.**

