



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

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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.

