



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 12/15

Testing for exclusion of notifiable avian disease

Defra, Scottish Government, Welsh Government and APHA offer a testing service for exclusion of notifiable avian disease (NAD) to poultry keepers through their private veterinary surgeon (PVS).

All OV's should note that the [Notifiable Avian Disease Control Strategy for Great Britain](#) has recently been updated. The Control Strategy states that a PVS may ask APHA to attend a consultation case where NAD (avian influenza and Newcastle disease) is very low on the differential diagnosis list. APHA would then either rule out suspicion of notifiable disease on clinical grounds, or begin an official investigation and impose restrictions if disease is suspected.

APHA also provide a service enabling PVSs to pay APHA to test samples for exclusion of NAD where the APHA duty vet agrees that notifiable disease is not suspected. No official restrictions will usually be applied, although keepers should consider, with their PVS, whether to apply voluntary restrictions. APHA will charge the full cost for testing.

The service is available for chickens and turkeys and may be extended in future to non-galliformes, in which case further detailed information will be provided.

Detailed information on the programme, including: sample collection and submission; testing; and the roles and responsibilities of PVSs and APHA duty vets can be found at: <http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway/nad/index.htm>

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