

Action from Moray Council on 2 February 2023	
Agenda Item No:	16
Report Title	Question Time
Responsible Officer:	Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance)
Information Sought:	Response:
Information on the costs and implications of the current avian flu outbreak.	<p>Extract from the minute of Moray Council on 7 December 2022:</p> <p>Councillor Lawrence raised concerns in regards to wildfowlers ignoring restrictions in relation to avian flu in the Findhorn Bay area and sought clarification on the steps the Council are taking to contain the spread and ensuring all users of the bay comply with the restrictions in place.</p> <p>In response, the Environmental Protection Manager confirmed the situation regarding avian flu is of increasing concern. Findhorn Bay itself is nationally important for birds with significant numbers of migrant wildfowl and waders. Established in 1998 the Local Nature Reserve is managed by local people in partnership with Moray Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Manager briefly highlighted the organisation hierarchy of advice regarding the approach to avian flu in Scotland.</p> <p>The Council can only stop shooting on its own land; Only Scottish Ministers - not NatureScot can effect a suspension/ban.</p> <p>Management of the Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve has been entrusted to a community based Management Committee comprising locally based business interests and various elements of the community together with organisations such as NatureScot and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</p> <p>The committee have been actively doing what they can within their limited powers and guidance available for several months. The risk to human health from 'bird flu' is very low.</p>

	For the full discussion the webcast can be viewed here discussion is at 4hrs 48m.
--	---

Once completed please return to committee.services@moray.gov.uk for publication on CMIS and circulating to Elected Members and copy in CMTadmin@moray.gov.uk