



International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring

Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/ND-Czech Republic

Date: 6 February 2007

Newcastle Disease in Czech Republic

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Newcastle Disease (ND) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease Report

The Czech Republic have reported a case of Newcastle Disease in a backyard flock of pigeons in the central district of Pardubice (see map) in late January (OIE, 2007). All pigeons in the flock have been destroyed and control measures have been put into place. Czech Republic reports that there are 33 flocks in the 1km zone around the outbreak (European Commission, 2007).

Situation Assessment

The last reported case of Newcastle disease in the Czech Republic occurred in July 1998.



Newcastle Disease in Czech Republic
January 2007



Newcastle Disease in Europe
July 2006 to January 2007
including this outbreak

The source of the current infection is suspected to be contact with wild species. There have been a number of outbreaks of ND in central Europe in poultry in the past six months (see map 2).

EU rules prevent trade in poultry and poultry meat from any area under restriction. Imported live poultry not from restricted areas must come from officially registered premises and accompanied by a health certificate signed by a vet.

TRACES, (the European Commission electronic system for notification of movements of live animals, their products and germplasm - within the European Union and from third countries) shows that we have imported 2000 poultry and 15 live captive birds from the Czech Republic since 1 October 2006.

Conclusion

On the basis of the currently present information, we consider that that there is negligible direct risk to the UK from these outbreaks of ND via legal trade. However, the recent developments also emphasise the need to maintain good biosecurity to prevent contact of poultry with pigeons and to ensure that proper vaccination procedures are followed if ND vaccine is applied in the UK.

We will continue to monitor the situation and review this assessment if required.

References

OIE. (2007). Newcastle Disease, Czech Republic. OIE Immediate notification report Ref OIE: 4659, Report Date: 30/01/2007.

European Commission, (2007). Confirmation of Newcastle disease in Czech Republic. Urgent fax 1/2/2007 12:30