

Happy retirement Prince Philip

Responding to the news of Prince Philip's retirement from public service UKIP Leader Paul Nuttall MEP said, "Today we should honour the life of service to our Queen and nation by Prince Philip.

"For over 60 years he has been a dedicated public servant, and deserves our great thanks. Happy retirement Sir."

UKIP Deputy Leader Peter Whittle AM added, "Prince Philip has been the very model of public duty at its best and utterly steadfast in his support of the Queen.

"We in UKIP offer him our very best wishes for well earned rest from public life."

Manston Airport plans prove that UKIP lives up to its promises

A £100 million investment plan to revive aviation at Manston Airport in Kent would not have been possible without the tireless campaigning of UKIP Councillors, according to the party's transport spokesman Jill Seymour.

An American logistics company has today unveiled plans to acquire the 750-acre site, and use it as a base for at least a dozen aircraft.

Representatives for the un-named investment company are due to discuss the prospects of Thanet District Council becoming a partner in a compulsory purchase order for the site.

"This is fabulous news. UKIP insisted two years ago that it was the only party which would work to save Manston, and we are delivering on our promises," said Mrs Seymour.

"News of this potential investment is testimony to the tireless campaigning, lobbying and hard work of the UKIP team on the ground in Thanet under Cllr Chris Wells, the leader of the Council."

Temporary suspension of bird gatherings will be lifted from 15 May

The temporary suspension was introduced in December 2016 after the declaration of the whole of Wales as an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone. This followed the confirmation of the H5N8 strain of Avian Influenza across European countries, the Middle East and North Africa.

Last week, the Cabinet Secretary confirmed the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone would not be replaced after its expiry on 30 April. The temporary suspension on gatherings of some species of birds in Wales, however, remained.

The lifting of the temporary suspension, from 15 May, follows an updated evidence-based risk assessment and is dependent on no further outbreaks of H5N8 in poultry or other captive birds or findings in wild birds.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

“I have taken this decision based upon the latest qualitative risk assessment, which considered the risk of incursion of H5N8 into poultry farms from contact primarily with resident wild waterfowl, but also with other possible pathways.

“The updated assessment concluded the overall risk should now be assessed as low, this is defined as being ‘rare, but may occur occasionally’. The overall risk is determined by the likelihood of the virus remaining in wild birds and the environment and the exposure to poultry.

“Expert opinion is that the risk to poultry is reduced as migratory wild birds leave Great Britain and as the resident wild waterfowl enters its breeding season. Environmental contamination will also reduce with warmer, drier weather and higher UV levels. Therefore, the risk of exposure to poultry is low as the resident wild waterfowl enters the breeding season they become less gregarious and the possibility of environmental contamination reduces.

“The overall risk presented by gatherings is also reduced, provided there are high levels of biosecurity at the gathering, ensuring species do not mix and cleansing and disinfection is carried out.

“Provided there are no further outbreaks or findings, the current general licence will be revoked and replaced on 15 May by a new general licence allowing all gatherings of birds.”

The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales, Christianne Glossop added:

“While I am sure this news will be welcomed by poultry and other captive bird keepers I would remind them it is vital they remain vigilant for signs of disease and maintain excellent biosecurity practices.”

Press release: PM statement on His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh: 4 May 2017

On behalf of the whole country, I want to offer our deepest gratitude and good wishes to His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh following today's announcement that he will stand down from public duties in the autumn.

From his steadfast support for Her Majesty the Queen to his inspirational Duke of Edinburgh Awards and his patronage of hundreds of charities and good causes, his contribution to our United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the wider world will be of huge benefit to us all for years to come.

Jeremy Corbyn statement on Prince Philip

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party, commenting on the news that Prince Philip is to retire from carrying out royal engagements, said:

“I would like to pay tribute to Prince Philip following his decision to retire from public service.

“He has dedicated his life to supporting the Queen and our country with a clear sense of public duty.

“His Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme has inspired young people for more than 60 years in over 140 nations.

"We thank Prince Philip for his service to the country and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement."