

## **Pamela Thompson Report 10 June 2019 – British Horse Council**

### **1. General project update**

- Were in a good position in April, where the vast majority of the systems and processes needed for a Day 1 'no deal' scenario, to ensure equines could continue to move between the UK and the EU, were in place. The extension to Article 50 allows more time to revisit areas where further work is needed.
- Political situation is still uncertain, but it is essential the industry and businesses continue to plan for a potential 'no deal' exit at the end of October.
- The BHC have been instrumental in ensuring messages have been delivered to the equine industry effectively and that processes Defra have developed properly reflect industry views. We are enormously grateful for your ongoing support.

### **2. Third country listing**

- The Commission provided us with a listing and placed us in health status category "A" ahead of a 'no deal' exit on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This decision will need to be re-visited ahead of a future 'no deal' exit, and a further vote of SCoPAFF would be needed, but we are confident we will continue to meet the requirements for a beneficial listing.
- At the same meeting, the Commission 'approved' a number of new equine BIPs – including those at Calais, Eurotunnel, Dublin Port and Rosslare. Again, this vote would need to be re-taken by SCoPAFF ahead of a future 'no deal' exit, but the relevant infrastructure is already in place.

### **3. Zootechnics/studbook recognition**

- You heard earlier in the day from the Zootechnics team on the work they are doing to secure recognition of UK studbooks ahead of an October 31<sup>st</sup> no deal. The work you, and other colleagues in the industry, are doing to support this, is extremely valuable (and much appreciated).
- There is still a lack of clarity regarding the willingness of the Commission to engage on this issue and, as things stand, their position remains that it is not a high priority.
- Whilst we remain confident the issue can be resolved, it's important therefore, that stakeholders understand the impact of the studbooks not being recognised on Day 1. This includes how a lack of studbook recognition limits both the export health certificates and BIPs they will be able to use. Please continue to direct questions to Gov.uk and the Q&A documents available from the BHA and BEF websites.

### **4. High Health Status Horse initiative/TPA replacement**

- We are continuing to work with industry colleagues to support the High Health Status Horse initiative.
- Where opportunities arise to lobby the Commission or officials from other member states, we are actively pursuing these (and will continue to feedback).
- As of yet, response from the Commission has been muted. But this is not necessarily unexpected, given the broader political context.
- It's very important that this work continues alongside 'no deal' planning moving forward, so we ask that you continue to keep us informed of any further developments within the industry and opportunities to provide support.