



DAERA Update
June Meeting 2022
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**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

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Update of DAERA Priorities (Equine):

At the Ports:

- Since EU Exit, there have been changes to equine travel between GB-NI
 - Compliance with the rules and procedures generally much improved since the start of EU Exit
 - Still some problems with certification of horses moving from GB-NI. DAERA are in discussions with APHA to try to improve standards of certification
 - Approach to inspection aligns with approach in ROI
 - Processes are dynamically assessed for health and safety
 - Only in rare circumstances are horses unloaded or detained
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Update of DAERA Priorities (equine):

Equine ID and Premises Registration:

- Under NI Protocol, the EU Animal Health Law already applies directly. DAERA currently are on a pathway to compliance.
- Submission has gone to the Minister to seek agreement to make and lay the Equine Identification (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 which will make a technical update to the existing domestic legislation (the Equine Identification Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019) to replace references to the revoked EU Regulations with references to the new EU Regulations.

Equine ID and Premises Registration

- Scoping exercise underway to make new Equine Identification and Registration SR to enforce equine premises registration, and explore need / appetite around derogations for extended passport formats, validation marks, new owner notification requirements and e-passports
- Current political uncertainty stalling progress, work continues in preparation

Update of DAERA Priorities(equine):

Equine Strategy: Deloitte Report of 2019 identified areas within NI equine industry for development consideration-

- EAT/L Group has been formed with reps from DoH, DE, DoJ and stakeholders. Identifying funding to support pilots in schools and social care
- Infrastructure Development-Horse Trails Group has been formed with reps from URRRA, Forest Service, NI Water, NIEA, BHS, Councils and DAERA. This group's aim is to improve the infrastructure of off road riding. Trying to secure funding for a pilot in SE.

Update of DAERA Priorities(equine):

- Education and training- work ongoing to improve and upgrade courses. Areas for development include equine tourism, equine specific land management and sustainability, CPD (equine vets and farriers), therapeutic use of the horse, farriery, equine specific health and safety
- Farriery: discussions with UK Farriers Registration Council confirmed primary legislation will be necessary in order to extend the Farriers Registration Act to NI. This will take time-likely to be mid 2024.

Update of DAERA Priorities(equine):

- An equine Forum has been established which meets 3 times a year to improve communication between government and the equine industry. There are reps from industry and government. It has proved very useful especially as EU Exit changes being rolled out, and during the Covid pandemic.
- Regular meetings continue with DAFM and industry in ROI, in addition to UK meetings..