

British Horse Council

Winter Meeting – Fri 9 December 2022

DRAFT MEETING NOTE

Items in yellow will be uploaded shortly

11.00 Chairman's welcome – Tim Brigstocke

- Previous notes and presentations: <https://www.britishhorsecouncil.org/meetings/>

11.05 British Horse Council update – David Mountford

Political Upheaval:

- 3 PMs / Rishi Sunak – Pony Club parent
- 3 Defra Secretaries of State - Dr Therese Coffey (current)
- 1 “Minister of the Horse” - Lord Benyon

Economically

- Tough times ahead
- TB sales strong in parts
- Non-TB sales slowed but still relatively OK

Socially

- Environmental challenges sustainability and drug resistance
- Challenge of explaining (and evolving) the use of horses in a world where fewer people have contact with large animals.

BHC Activity

- Much is on the agenda:
 - ID Reports
 - Movement of Horses (Import/Export & Welfare)
- Equine Health & Welfare Pathway Stage 1 proposals:
 - ID
 - Disease Surveillance
 - Health Plans for worm control
- Disease Protection System
- Red Diesel

11.10 Equine ID survey and consultation

Defra report publication and actions – Helen Johnston

For consultation results and recommendations see www.britishhorsecouncil.org

Consultation was open for 12 weeks:

- 394 responses were received which were split almost 50/50 between industry and private individuals/horse owners
- Results and government response report was published on 22nd November and is available to view via link above

Consultation 'headline' results revealed support for:

- Measures to improve traceability/biosecurity e.g.
- equine location recording
- digitisation
- equine ID
- enabling owners/keepers and vets to update the Central Equine Database
- use of APIs to and from the Central Equine Database

Measures to improve compliance:

- temporary ID for welfare
- both parties in transaction having responsibility to notify
- standardising timescales for notifications
- range of suggestions to improve enforcement

We also recognise:

- little desire to change food chain status rules
- we need to retain paper passports for time being for zootechnical and travel purposes

Next steps:

- We will further develop this work as outlined in the government response.
- Immediate steps are working on the legislative requirements, with the aim of new legislation next summer.
- Scoping work has started to establish timescales for non-regulatory measures and other considerations
- Further development work including ongoing engagement with BHC, other industry and other key stakeholders on the detail.

In summary, we know the desired direction of travel, we now need to establish the how / what it looks like in practice

BHC report publication and circulation – Kim Ayling/Jan Rogers

For report see www.britishhorsecouncil.org

11.30 Welfare in Transport (Official Controls) – Nichola Clark (see separate slides)

11.35 UK Borders

Target Operating Model update – Helen Johnston

- We are working at pace across government to get new ministers up-to-speed with the Target Operating Model proposals and we will be able to provide further updates shortly.
- The Government will target the end of 2023 as the revised introduction date for the controls' regime.

- This updated TOM will apply equally to goods from the EU and goods from the Rest of the World. It will be a risk based, proportionate, balanced approach, which fully uses the benefits of technology
- We aim to produce a new regime which will be digitalised to reduce friction and administrative burden but also to enable automation of routine tasks and integration with other systems that Defra is running, including e-phytosanitary certification capability. More information will be published shortly on the Target Operating Model.

e-certification – Mike Davis

Please see a summary below of the aims of the Digital Assistance Scheme and eCertification:

DAS aims to support and simplify the movement of agri-food goods into the single market by digitising the certification and verification process, known as eCertification for EHCs. This removes the current paper-based and duplicated processes to reduce administrative burden for businesses. It delivers an end-to-end digital solution from the point at which initial product information is gathered to support the generation of certificates, through to the production of an import notification at the end of the process.

The eCertification service aims to be a quicker, easier and better way to complete the certification and verification requirements to move goods from GB to NI and will enable **exporters** to:

- Apply for Export Health Certificates (EHCs)
- Complete an application in around 10 minutes
- Have the application digitally approved by the certifier
- Track the application status
- Digitally send application details onwards through each step
- Obtain PDFs and QR codes for EHCs

For **certifiers**, the new system will allow them to record certification outcomes online using check boxes to add or delete attestations, and to digitally sign the certificate removing the need for stamps and hard copies. While the appearance of the system has changed, the principles of certifying each certificate with physical checks has not.

eCertification allows for the cloning of the majority of details from the EHC to complete the Common Health Entry Document - CHED Part 1 - and create the import notification. The enhanced validation that comes with eCertification aims to reduce the risk of errors which may cause delays and rejections at the Points of Entry. For haulage companies, the more of their (producer & manufacturer) customers who come on board with eCertification, the more the business will benefit (less paper, quicker administration, working towards groupage movements where all of the consignments are eCertified). Improvements have been made to DAERA's CHIP system which now automatically notifies Port Officials of an e-Certification for EHCs consignment.

Exporter Benefits:

- Quicker, cheaper, easier and better way to complete the certification and verification requirements
- Enhanced auditing and reporting capabilities
- Automates the process for CHED cloning
- Copy data from previous applications to save time
- Can use with Groupage
- Paperless service

Certifier Benefits:

- Reduced risk of fraud
- Digitally approve EHCs, using simple check boxes to add or delete attestations. reducing time and errors on strike-through
- Digitally sign the certificate, removing the need for stamps and paper
- Enhanced auditing and reporting capabilities
- Enhanced validation means less time amending certificates
- Paperless service
- Certifiers can assign certificates to a colleague, so they are notified that there is an EHC that requires their attention

11.45 Consultations and updates

- 1. Licensing of Activities Involving Animals (LAIA) Post Implementation Review – Josh Day/Sarah Phillips (see separate slides)**
- 2. Exotic equine infectious disease compensation limited consultation – David Mountford**

Existing legislation allows for compensation payments following compulsory slaughter only for EIA and AHS. Consultation aims to extend compensation two other exotic diseases (England only).

Defra considers that a capped maximum payment offers a fair balance between the interests of horse owners and the interests of taxpayers.

Two levels of compensation proposed for an infected animal. £1 for a suspected or in contact animal that subsequently is found not to have been infected a maximum of two and a half thousand pounds. This is the same level as is currently offered for African horse sickness.

The BHC board did not reach a consensus on the issue of compensation levels but agreed that the costs of slaughter and disposal should be met by government.

The Board considered the following points:

1. A low capped maximum payment (whether at £2.5k or £5k or £10k) will not reflect the market value of a high proportion of England's horses
2. Too low a cap may incentivise "non-reporting" of suspicious cases or illegal movement of in contact horses
3. Too high a cap may incentivise fraudulent claims
4. No cap would expose Gov and the taxpayer to potentially very large compensation liabilities (and may also incentivise fraudulent claims)
5. The assessment of individual horses to establish a market value would potentially be a very significant administrative burden
6. Some form of assessment would be required whether there was a cap or no cap; the only system that would not require an assessment would be one where there was a set sum for all horses
7. Notwithstanding the current legislative situation, the horse owning public might be expected to react strongly to a proposed system that fails to pay market value for horses compulsorily slaughtered where systems differ between species

8. It is difficult to properly understand the impact without a better understanding of how compulsory slaughter might be expected to work in the face of different disease outbreaks; a clearer understanding of this might help public understanding of any proposed compensation levels

The BHC board have recommended a series of stakeholder meetings to investigate / explore the following:

- How compulsory slaughter might be expected to work in the face of different disease outbreaks
- Any evidence on how best to promote responsible reporting of suspicion of disease / minimise the risk of horses being illegally moved during an outbreak
- The viability of commercial insurance
- How best to communicate any compensation proposals to the horse owning public

3. Penalty Notices – Kieran Smith

4. **Infectious disease and vaccine status update – Richard Newton** (See separate slides)

12.05 Five minute break

12.10 Zootechnical update – Caroline Liddell

- **Third Country Listing of EU Societies:** To date we have listed 292 studbooks from 23 Member States. There are currently no requests waiting to be approved so this work is now business as usual i.e., we accept and consider applications as and when they are received.
- **Third Country Listing of UK Societies (by the EU):** Alongside all the breed societies and programmes that were accepted by the EU in 2020, two additional equine breeding programmes were accepted by the EU earlier in the Summer. These are the British Spotted Saddle Horse and the Spanish Norman (which were newly accepted breeding programmes from BAPSH)
- **Extended Breeding Programmes:** There are currently 8 breeding bodies extended into the UK from 5 countries. The most recently accepted breeding programmes were the Purebred Classical Knabstrupper and the Classical Knabstrupper which have been extended from Denmark. We have one application currently under review which is for the Zangersheide, applying from Belgium.

12.15 Controlling ANTiparasitic resistance in Equines Responsibly (CANTER) update – Laura Peachey

12.20 Access Update – Will Steel (see separate slides)

12.30 British Equestrians for Ukraine – Roly Owers

- British Equestrians for Ukraine Fund continues to operate

- Since June has provided over £30,000 of veterinary medicine supplies – and £60,000 of emergency feed and forage provision
- Potentially looking to support an initiative to donate rugs as winter takes hold
- Looking to explore how to best provide support if/when the in-country security situation improves

12.35 Government updates – Devolved Authorities

Scotland – Fiona Eddy

Wales – Gosia Dabrowska-Jones (separate report provided)

Northern Ireland – Nichola Connery

- Northern Ireland currently has a similar horse passport regime to the rest of the UK. DAERA is also part of the contract for the UK Central Equine Database and equines which are domiciled within Northern Ireland are required to be registered on that.
- The EU Animal Health Law applies directly in Northern Ireland under the provisions of the Northern Ireland Protocol and this introduces certain new requirements for equines.
- Within DAERA, officials have assessed the EU Animal Health Law, and have a good handle on what the new requirements for equines are:
 - o Requirement to register equine establishments
 - o Requirement to record habitual residence (exceeding 30 days)
 - o A number of derogations which we will wish to consider including the use of smart cards and an extension to the animal health certificate from 10 days to 30 days, linked to high health status and read/write access for vets to the UK CED
- In addition to requiring domestic legislation, some of the new requirements will require operational and IT solutions to be developed which will take some time
- Although it is already a legal requirement in Northern Ireland as in other EU Member states to comply with these requirements, like many other Member States, we do not yet have domestic legislation in place to enforce the new requirements
- In Northern Ireland we are currently in a period without a functioning Executive, which brings about a degree of uncertainty regarding bringing forward this and other substantive policy measures, particularly where legislation is required under the draft affirmative procedure
- DAERA officials continue to work closely with officials in Defra and the Scottish and Welsh administration to ensure as far as possible that we have an effective horse passport regime. In particular, any proposals to enhance traceability and data recording is especially welcome going forward, given the nature of the all-island equine industry and ensuring that horses that reside in Northern Ireland are appropriately captured on the UK Central Equine Database

England – Helen Johnston

The equine ID legislation we are reviewing as a result of the consultation covers England only and the update above covers this. However, elements of it will impact the other DAs. We continue to engage with them in developing the proposals (please see earlier report).

12.55 Equine Sector – Five Minute Updates

Sport - Jim Eyre

Sport

- World Championship success in Herring and Pratoni earlier this year – most notably with Lottie Fry and Yasmin Ingham becoming World Champions in Dressage and Eventing respectively. Key – is the qualification of all four disciplines to the Paris Olympic & Paralympic Games, with only GER achieving the same qualifications at this stage.
- Brexit and the lack of free movement cross borders remains an unresolved issue – discussions continue with Defra and DCMS.
- Equine Welfare in sport – we have established an Equine Welfare and Ethics Advisory Group, to consider and advise the BEF Board and Members of the key equine welfare risks, threats and perceptions – this will also review the work conducted by the FEIs Equine Ethics & Wellbeing Commission.
- Concussion – early next year, we will be promoting best practice for dealing with concussion, working with BHA and IJF and all members of our Federation to make sure we have the best policies and procedures for dealing with head injuries.

Participation

- A number of research projects: Barriers to Equestrianism – why ethnically diverse communities and lower social economic groups are under represented in our sport – and how to change that.
- Research into best practice for Urban Riding schools – providing a number of different models for operational success
- Cost of Living, 6 months ago, we knew we had a shortage in horses and stable staff, now this further exacerbated by the enormous rise in inflation and raw materials costs. The impact of which we are really yet to see. We have accessed from Sport England a Together Fund, which can be applied for to support riding centres from recovering from the effects of Covid, and now the cost of living.
- Sustainability – over the next 6 months we will conducting an environmental sustainability review on the impact of equestrianism – we will engage across the Federation and will include the devolved nations.

Welfare – Roly Owers (see separate slides)

Leisure & recreation – James Hick

- The Government is committed to repealing the 2026 Deadline for registrations to the definitive map which means more lost bridleways to be added to the definitive map
- The changes to the Highway Code to pass horse riders at no more than 10mph and more than 2 meters is a major milestone in road safety
- Cost of living crisis in riding schools is increasing, the critical issue is access to qualified coaches and grooms. The British Horse Society's Career Transition Fund has had more than 1000 applicants for their training grant, and this will continue in 2023
- British Riding Clubs membership and activity is holding up across the UK with 28,000 members training and competing together. The British Horses Society is undertaking a review of BRC to ascertain how greater participation can be facilitated for all BRCs across the UK

Veterinary – David Mountford

Current challenges

- Antimicrobial and anthelmintic resistance
- Flu vaccination shortage
- West Nile virus and flu outbreaks

- Manpower - A Perfect storm
 - Change in careers expectations across society
 - Increase percentage of vets who are second earners
 - Increase demand for part time work often as a result of parental responsibilities
 - demand for a work life balance with a decreased willingness to spend large amounts of time on call
 - Increased demand for veterinary care
 - Brexit
 - Covid
 - Corporatisation
- People leaving the profession
- Practices struggling to fill vacancies
- Horse owners may need to change their expectation (compare the situation with GPs and dentists) e.g.
 - nurse visits
 - increased fees
 - requirement to take horse to clinic rather than for the vet to come to the horse

- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 is out of date and whilst a revamp is probable in the medium term it is not imminent.

Trade – Claire Williams

Just like the inflation seen in so many areas of our own lives, equestrian trade sector has not escaped inflationary pressures.

- The Feed industry has been impacted on multiple fronts, from the rising price of energy causing not only raw materials to increase relating to harvesting and growing costs but also due to energy required to manufacture the feed. Some of this is related to the sourcing of much raw material from Ukraine and Russia, especially bulk ingredients.
- Typically between January and now feeds have increased by over a third, with oats, a traditional favourite both fed as a straight and included in compound feeds, currently 20% higher than the start of the year.
- Companies have seen increases in production costs go up as much as 25% year on year with feeds highest in oil being hardest hit.
- A main driver of the commodity costs of many inputs into our industry is the exchange rate, so the fact that exchange rates are more favourable currently means that fortunately prices of major feed-related inputs and other imports have stopped increasing.
- It is worth noting that many companies have not passed on all of the increased costs to customers, but unless costs continue to ease you may see further increases in the new year.
- Many of the increases are very regional so in the case of forage (ie hay) in the dry south east prices have doubled whereas in Scotland for example prices have gone up 20%.
- Many will have seen increases in wrapped and packaged products due to the increased costs of plastic packaging.

- All forms of bedding will have seen increases with some products such as wood pellets almost doubling in price. This impacts more on products utilising recycled wood products where these are being diverted to the energy sector rather than the equine.

Safety

- Assisting disciplines with their rules for the next year and beyond.
- Not all are the same but the main ones who specify the use of bp's are agreed on a withdrawal date for the acceptance of the BETA 2009 garments which will be taken out of the rule books of BE, BRC and PC at the end of 2023.
- Similarly, the changes to rules with regards some of the older versions of popular standards (PAS015 1998 and SNELLE2001) come into force on 1 January.
- We are well advanced with the equestrian air vest standard which is now entering the formal process of becoming a Standard. Having said that it is unlikely to appear for at least another year.
- Work has begun on the writing of a back only protector- like air vests this is a largely unregulated sector, with some referencing the motor cycle standards and others not. Many made do not meet the requirements of L3 garments so intention is to work towards this.
- Hat standards front the EN1384 is entering the final stage of approval, having now moved to the formal voting stage within the EU – including UK. This stage ends in late January, an assuming a positive vote it would be published in the second quarter. To be used by most manufacturers it requires harmonisation (ie given a presumption of conformity for purposes of CE and UKCA marking) and this lies in the power of the EU Commission.
- Once it is harmonised you are likely to see hats made and kitemarked but wouldn't expect this to be the case until latter half of next year. Should this occur then manufacturers may switch. The new EN1384 does have higher performance requirements so it is not automatic that hats meeting VG1 will automatically meet 1384.
- UKCA is the UK equivalent of the CE mark in Europe. Following departure from the single market the UKCA was made a requirement of placing certain product onto the market, with a transitional period offered of one year. This has now been extended twice, most recently in November moving the deadline from 31 Dec 2022 to 31 Dec 2024.
- Finally, work has started on the 4 yearly BETA National Equestrian Survey, with thanks to the BEF and Sport England who are co-funding it. The field work for the first part, involving a sample of the national population has been completed and we will in the next fortnight be launching the second stage for which we need the support of the equestrian sector. Please do complete the survey should you be sent an invitation and equally please do share the link as the more responses we receive, the more reliable the data.

Racing and TB breeding – Claire Sheppard & Ross Hamilton

Thoroughbred Breeding (see TBA website for details)

- British Thoroughbred Breeding Industry Economic Impact Study, publish Q1 2023
- Environmental Sustainability: Carbon Calculator tool Equine
- Health and Welfare: Guidelines – new chapters on Thoroughbred Sales and End of Life & new Podcast series

British Racing

- Agreement reached on industry strategy targeted at sustainable growth
 - Governance arrangements – BHA Board as ultimate decision-making body with new supporting committee structure introduced
- Horse Welfare Board strategy – *A Life Well Lived* – progressing well
 - 17 of 26 projects live; £3 million funding support from Racing Foundation
 - New Rules on use of whip being implemented in early 2023

- Bedding in period from 9 Jan in Jump racing; 27 Feb in Flat racing
- Awaiting publication of Gambling Act Review White Paper in coming weeks

Research and dissemination – Jeanette Allen & Annie Dodd

The Horse Trust

- Currently 30 research projects underway with fewer applications in 2022 than expected due to changes in circumstances of academic establishments. Funding for new research likely to be lower in 2023 due to prevailing financial constraints. The Horse Trust has equine care data on its own herd which it can make available for research and this is being used by establishments already.
- #theweightwin equine body condition showing initiative will continue in 2023
- TalkEquine Clinical Animal Behaviour series is likewise available in 2023, providing support and case studies for individuals developing their CAB skills and also to disseminate outcomes of other funded projects such as care for older horses and managing strangles

Horserace Betting Levy Board

- With the help of our partner funders, and a 25% increase in Levy Board funding for its veterinary budget, we were able to start 17 new awards – 5 major projects, 6 small projects, 1 post doc fellowship, 3 PhDs and 2 clinical scholarships
- The committee will be assessing this year's applications next week
- HBLB and The Horse Trust are in discussions about the best way to help horse owners, breeders and trainers aware of project outcomes

13.30 AoB

Survey: Understanding the management, ownership, population and welfare of horses, ponies, donkeys and their hybrids across England and Wales. This research project has been commissioned to find out more about the use and care of horses across England and Wales. Specifically, we are interested in the supply and demand for horses in these countries and the impact this has on horse welfare and the population.

<https://svs.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/horses-in-england-and-wales>

13.45 Close